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THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

Tomorrow

If music . . .
Bernard Levin suffers assault at the hands of Anton Webern – and hits back.

Be the food . . .
Eat, drink – and lay a beautiful table. Sir Roy Strong considers the epergne and other adornments.



Of love . . .
Sir John Summerson reflects on the architecture of the Thirties and wonders why some people love it *so much*.

Play on . . .
Why London is swinging again.

Give me . . .
The beauty of California and the romance of Hawaii.

Excess
Attempts to outlaw video nasties are welcome, but parliamentarians should beware of going too far.

Blocking of budget rebate sharpens conflict with EEC

By Ian Murray in Strasbourg and Anthony Bevins in London

To the impotent fury of all British Euro-MPs, the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday voted stolidly to block payment of rebates due to Britain and West Germany, while passing a £15,500m budget for the Community next year. That is a tiny £26m less than the Community's resources in 1984.

In London Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, sharpened the threat that Britain might withhold payments from the Community if the £457m rebate was not *paid* by the end of March, the official British deadline.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons, in reply to a challenge from Mr Neil Kinnock, that she had been "greatly disappointed" by the European Parliament vote earlier in the day to block the repayment.

The Parliament has left the door open for the money to be handed over by the March deadline, but for that to happen member states will have to agree to reforms similar to those which failed to win any kind of support at the abortive Athens summit.

Legally the budget is suspect, and it may yet be challenged in the courts either by the Council of Ministers or the British Government.

The rebate due to Britain, and the £91m for West Germany, were agreed during the Stuttgart summit last June as net payments in recognition of the fact that both countries were paying more than their proper share of the cost of running the Community.

British MEPs reacted angrily. "The Parliament has shown a staggering display of political insensitivity and discrimination", Mr Neil Balfour told the assembly. "From now on you have lost the support of every single directly-elected British member of this Parliament."

That support was being withdrawn "with total justification and real anger". Mr Balfour, the Conservative spokesman on budgetary affairs, has been criticized in the past for his over-conciliatory approach.

Not to be outdone in the invective, Mrs Barbara Castle, the leader of the Labour group, described the Parliament's vote as "petty and hypocritical". The British were not responsible for the failure at Athens, she said, yet they alone were being asked to pay for it.

Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the Conservative group, was on the telephone to Downing Street the moment the vote was over. He had been warned when he called the previous evening that Mrs Thatcher would be very angry if the money was frozen. He tried to put the dispute into perspective.

"I am quite hopeful that in the end it is not a bad day's work", he said."It may tend to speed up the decision – which we have been seeking for so long."

The Conservative group had gone into the session trying hard to be conciliatory. Most members abstained *when* Mrs Castle's resolution to reject the entire budget was put. She won only marginal support from the entire Socialist group for her view that "this Parliament is participating in a con trick on the people of Europe".

When the vote to freeze the British money was taken, however, Conservatives and Labour members voted together, with four Danes, three French and one West German, to honour the promise to pay.

At that point, Mr Andrew Pearce, the Conservative MEP for Cheshire, West, told the assembly that they were storing up trouble for themselves in the future. None of the 54 million people in Britain, he said, could understand why one of the poorer states in the community was being expected to finance richer states.

An attempt by the Conservatives then to reject the entire budget failed by 241 votes to 111. In consequence, the group voted in protest against every other part of the budget.

This stung Mrs Castle to complain that the Conservatives were voting against money *which* was earmarked to help create jobs in Britain. "They sat there like sulky little boys who have lost a cricket match and who then say 'I have taken away my bat.'"

The budget will not be adopted until it is signed by Mr Piet Dankert, the president of the assembly. He is meant to do

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All clear: A London policeman inspects a briefcase blown open by bomb experts outside the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, yesterday. There was traffic chaos after the object was spotted and the area cleared.

Why Nato might use bomb first

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, has given a warning that Nato would be forced to *escalate "fairly quickly" to the* first use of nuclear weapons in the event of a large-scale attack by Soviet conventional forces in Europe.

Although he did not specify how soon after such an attack he would have to ask Nato leaders to authorize the release of neclear weapons, he emphasized that the alliance did not have adequate sustaninability, manpower, ammunition and prepositioned reserves to contain a Soviet conventional attack "except for a very short time."

General Rogers, who has been Nato's commander since 1979, is in the United States to propagate what has now become a well-worn theme of his – the need for the 16-nation alliance to increase its defence spending, particularly on building up its conventional forces.

An improvement in Nato's conventional capacity would enhance the alliance's deterrence capability and raise the nuclear threshold, he told a group of foreign journalists. But it would inevitaly involve some sacrifices – about $11 (£7.85) a year for every man, woman and child living in Nato countries.

"The people have to be convinced that there is a threat to their freedom and have to be willing to make this additional sacrifice," he declared.

General Rogers went out of his way to assure Europeans that the new Pershing and cruise missiles now being deployed in West Germany, Britain and Italy could not cause a nuclear war by accident or miscalculation.

He said the weapons would not even become nuclear until he received a special code from the US President and that code had been dialled into the warhead.

The only way he could obtain that code would be to go through the normal three-part release procedures laid down by Nato headquarters as well as in each of the 16 capitals with an early warning message saying that it might be necessary to use nuclear weapons.

This would be followed by a warning message containing information about possible targets and specifying the countries from which Nato's short and Medium-rang missiles would be launched.

Finally there would have to be a release message which would provide *him* with the codes for the warheads on the various types of weapons to be used in a nuclear strike.

"Until I get those codes I don't have a nuclear weapon," he explained. "I've got a warhead that is capable of becoming a nuclear warhead, but we must use the codes to enable it to be that."

Lawson is foiled on power price

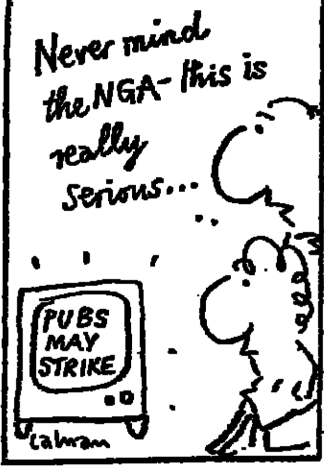
Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has again failed to secure a 3 per cent rise in the price of electricity. The Cabinet decided not to take legal powers to direct the Electricity Council to increase prices, but a 2 per cent rise is likely **Page 2**

Pound rises

Sterling rose to 1.4225 against the dollar, up 55 points, as West Germany's central bank again intervened heavily on foreign exchange markets **Page 17**

Nanny demand

The prosecution at the Italian trial of the Scottish nanny, Carol Compton, demanded a seven-year jail term for arson and attempted murder **Page 7**



Time please

Managers employed by a Grand Metropolitan subsidiary will strike today and shut 280 pubs in the North. The action could spread over Christmas and New Year **Page 3**

Hard to swallow

Mr Edwin Meese, the White House counsellor, has caused a political storm by making derogatory remarks about America's hungry **Page 8**

£170m bid

Hanson Trust last night launched a £170m cash takeover bid for London Brick, Britain's sole maker of fletton house bricks.

NGA decides to halt mass pickets

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Leaders of the National Graphical Association (NGA) decided last night that there will be no return to industrial action in the six-month-old dispute with Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger Group newspapers and no more mass picketing of the plant at Warrington, Cheshire.

The NGA national council, meeting in Bedford, agreed, however, that it would continue the dispute despite the withdrawal of TUC support for industrial action in contravention of the Government's labour laws.

It condemned the decision of the TUC General Council to "sell us down the river" and agreed unanimously to continue the campaign for a closed shop and reinstatement of the dismissed "Stockport six". But it will adopt a less militant stance and will ask for support from the unions that backed the NGA in the TUC vote.

The NGA will be consulting "its friends and supporters in the movement" and seeking to mobilize unions in a campaign to continue the dispute and change the TUC's policy on backing for unions that find themselves *in direct conflict* with the employment legislation.

Yesterday's decision marks a new departure in the NGA's campaign. It suggests that the union will continue action within the labour movement to undermine the policy of Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, that the TUC should not flout the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts.

It also suggests that the union has been given private assurances of support by powerful unions such as the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Public Employees, whose representatives on the TUC General Council voted in favour of supporting the "unlawful" one-day strike called by the NGA earlier this week.

The NGA leaders also agreed yesterday to defer any decision about going back to the High Court to seek a judge's order to free the union's £10m from the control of the sequestrators who were put in to seize £675,000 in fines for contempt of court.

But the union will go into court on Monday to seek a variation of the order so as to release some of the union's funds for friendly society benefits.

● The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) was given leave yesterday to appeal to the House of Lords over its dispute with David Dimbleby's family group of *newspapers* based at Richmond upon Thames.

But Lord Diplock, sitting with Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, said that the House of Lords *would hear* the appeal *only if* the union agreed to obey the law in the meantime and to withdraw its strike call tomembers.

The Law Lords said that if the NUJ failed to give undertakings to abide by the injunctions within seven days its petition would be dismissed and it would be in contempt of court.

Conveyance outlet for banks

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

Banks and building societies will be able to offer conveyancing services in competition with solicitors' firms under government legislation to be foreshadowed in the Commons today by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General.

But, under proposals approved by the Cabinet yesterday, they would still have to employ solicitors to do the work.

The Cabinet, therefore, while agreeing to liberalize the conveyancing market, has decided to introduce measurew which are far more limited in scope than those in Mr Austin Mitchell's Buyers Bill, to be debated today. That Bill envisages the concept of the "licensed conveyancer".

Sir Patrick is expected to promise consultations to examine how more competition can be introduced, but there will be disappointment among MPs that the Government's Bill, as at present envisaged, will not allow people other than solicitors to convey property.

The *Government* will oppose Mr Mitchell's Bill, which it regards as unsatisfactory, and it appeared last night that Conservative MPs would be sufficiently satisfied with the promise of action to be dissuaded from backing it.

Sir Patrick is expected to promise legislation during the present Parliament.

US warship blasts Lebanese militias

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

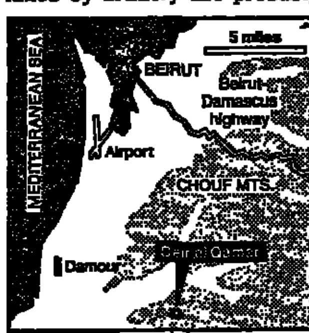
Less than an hour after the US marines in Beirut had come under fierce attack by mortars and heavy artillery yesterday evening, the battleship New Jersey began to bombard Shia Muslim and Druze militia positions in the hills around the base.

It was the second barrage by *the vessel in 36 hours*.

The New Jersey fired only its 5-in artillery, but the guns and shell explosions could be heard across Beirut as shock waves rumbled over the city.

There had been serious fighting round the Marine compound at thbe airport during the day when Lebanese troops and Shia Muslim guerrillas had fought artillery battles not far from the British Army headquarters in the suburb of Hadeth. At least one shell landed scarcely 50 yards from the British base.

Earlier a French soldier was killed by artillery fire probably



directed from the Chouf mountains. Another French paratrooper was killed in the morning, when gunmen in a car shot him in the back at close range as he *emptied* a rubbish bin outside his regimental headquarters. This is clearly going to be a pattern of attack that will continue. Late in the afternoon a French patrol was attacked: three men were wounded.

Elsewhere in Lebanon yesterday, the Israelis, with tanks, armoured troop carriers and air cover, staged a mass evacuation of the Christians from Deir el-Qamar. They took hundreds of civilians and their would-be militia protectors of the Phalange to the safety of Israeli lines across the Awali river.

The Phalangists – who have been trapped in the town by the Druze since last September's mountain civil war – were later taken to Sidon. Last night, the *Phalangist radio was claiming* that the Christian militia were on board the French helicopter carrier Jeanne d'Arc, which was steaming northwards towards Beirut, escorted by Israeli gunboats.

Whether or not this report was true, the Phalangists, who more than any other Lebanese militia have demanded the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, will now have to live with the fact that they needed a foreign army to rescue them form their Druze fellow-countrymen.

Druze gunmen jeered at the Christian militamen, making obscene gestures and waving bayonets as their enemies, packed in Buses with blinds down, were driven out of the town under Israeli protection.

The drama of the evacuation from the Chouf mountains, in which several hundred Israeli armoured vehicles were involved, tended to obscure the far graver events being discussed in Damascus between Mr Daoald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's Middle East envoy and Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister.

Less than a day after the New Jersey had shelled the Syrian Army for the first time, the two men concluded their three hours of discussions during the afternoon without finding any way of ending the military confrontation between Syria and America.

Indeed, General Mustafa Tlass, the Army commander, told his troops yesterday that Syria would continue to open fire on US reconnaissance jets and the Army would "surprise

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Two ways to censor war reports

By Rodney Cowton Defence Correspondent

A call for government departments to prepare plans so that a "discretionary" system of censorship could be introduced if Britain again became *involved* in a war is contained in the report of a study group published yesterday.

General Sir Hugh Beach, chairman of the group studying the protection of military information, said that if there was another war a system of censorship would be necessary, and would be demanded.

The report criticizes the censorship system during the Falklands conflict. General Beach said that in any future war a system would work better if there had been advance preparation.

The groups suggests two forms of censorship which would operate in parallel. There would be a discretionary system in the United Kingdom with editors being *able*, but not obliged, to refer material which might be militarily damaging to the censor.

If they published without reference to the censor they would be open to prosecution if the material contravened rules on what could or could not be published.

Report, page 4
Leading article, page 15

Three miners trapped by tons of rock

Rescuers made contact last night with three men trapped a quarter of a mile underground at Sherwood colliery, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, after hundreds of tons of rock collapsed. All three men were safe and well.

Two rescue teams continued working to reach the men. A dozen workmates of the trapped miners were helping.

The men were in a tunnel 16ft high and 10ft wide constructing an access road for a new coal face at the colliery when the rock fell.

One rescue team was using picks, shovels and even bare hands and the other had cutting gear called a mechanical mole, which punches 6in wide holes.

A ventilation tube runs into the tunnel and National Coal Board experts said air was getting through.

The trapped men are Mr Ian Johnson, aged 38, married with a son, of Soulby Close, Forest Town, Mansfield; Mr Peter Williams, aged 42, married with two children, of Sycamore Road, Mansfield Woodhouse; and Mr Peter Watts, aged 33, married with three children, of Abbots Croft, Mansfield.

Clash of Soviet titans draws near

By Alan Hamilton

Gary Kasparov, the handsome young prodigy with the looks to fire a gymslip crush and the memory of a computer, is within an ace of ensuring that next year's final of the world chess championships will be a clash of Soviet titans.

Kasparov, born 20 years ago with the name of Weinstein in the Soviet "deep south" republic of Azerbaydzhan, need only draw his next and eleventh game with the ailing Viktor Korchnoi at the Great Eastern Hotel in London to wipe the mercurial defector from the board.

Korchnoi, with a reputation for fighting back from the tightest of corners, has left his life-saving rally perilously late.

Victory for Kasparov will delight the Soviet chess establishment, which has wished upon Korchnoi the status of an unperson since he decamped to Switzerland in 1976.

If youth triumphs over experience in today's vital game, Kasparov will next meet the victor of the other semi-final being played concurrently. His opponent seems certain to be the veteran Russian international grandmaster Vasily Smyslov, who last took the world title in 1957 and has staged a remarkable comeback at the age of 62.



Kasparov in play. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

The betting on that outcome is firmly in favour of Kasparov as the man to meet the reigning Soviet world champion, Anatoly Karpov, who has twice beaten off challenges from Korchnoi for his crown. There the odds become less certain.

In the latest published world chess ratings, Karpov leads Kasparov by 2,710 to 2,690, but a brilliant performance by the young star at a tournament in Yugoslavia in September, where all the world's top players with the notable exception of Karpov turned up to be beaten by him, may well have put him in first place when the next ratings appear in January.

In the present match Korchnoi's sole win was in the first game; he has lost three and drawn six. Grandmasters observing the struggle have been unimpressed by the play of either man.

Raymond Keene: "Kasparov has been playing like Karpov, taking opportunities from Korchnoi's mistakes rather than *building up positions. He is* a naturally inventive and ingenious player, but he has shown little of his true skill here."

Harry Golombek, chess correspondent of *The Times*: "There has only been an occasional flash of Kasparov's brilliance; normally he breathes life and fire into positions.

"As for Korchnoi, he was more or less done for when he lost to Karpov in 1981. He no longer has the incentive of trying to get his family out of *the Soviet Union, and that has* seemed to drain him of much of his energy."

Grandmaster Jon Speelman: "Kasparov could not get himself together at all at first, but since Korchnoi's disaster in the sixth game Gary has turned from a tortured dog to an uncaged lion. He has learnt to

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Jenkin questions value of local democracy in leaked note to Cabinet

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is questioning the value of local democracy as part of his sutained campaign to curb the powers of high-spending councils.

A confidential memorandum circulated to Cabinet colleagues says: "Local authorities are responsible to local people through the ballot box for the way they carry out their *statutory responsibilities*."

But it then adds that there are "major limitations" to the accountability of councillors to their ratepayers and their electorate.

The memorandum states that non-domestic ratepayers contribute nearly 60 per cent of the rates – at £6,000m, the largest single tax on business in England – while industry and commerce have no direct voting influence.

In the last financial year, only 48 per cent of local authorities' net revenue expenditure was met by ratepayers and "only 22 per cent of net rate fund revenue expenditure is financed by domestic rates, before rebates".

The memorandum concludes: "Only about 35 per cent of those eligible to vote in local elections pay full rates.

"Thirty per cent of domestic ratepayers are eligible for full or partial rebates."

Dr John Cunningham, the shadow spokesman who released details of the leaked document, said last night: "This does actually imply that for a small price you can get rid of local democracy."

In a note to be delivered to all Labour MPs today, Dr Cunningham sets the theme for the opposition to next week's Bill on rate-capping when he says: "Local democratic freedom and choice is being replaced by bureaucratic dictatorship."

Mr Jenkin's memoranum makes no pretence about the Government's attitude to local democracy. It says: "Ours is a unitary and not a federal state. All the local powers of local authorities, including the pwer to raise rates, are derived from Parliament. Local mandates cannot set aside national policies.

It also says that the Government has a right to demand a response from local authorities to its programme for national economic recovery. "Where that response is not forthcoming, the Goverment has no alternative but to act through Parliament to safeguard the policies on which it was elected."

● County councils chosen for abolition by ministers claimed yesterday that the latest Government grants had set them difficult targets which were meant to justifty subsequent Conservative charges of overspending (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

It also became clear that a complicated loophole had allowed some smaller authorities, mostly Conservative, to emerge with more scope for spending than had been expected.

Mr Roy Thwaites, Labour leader of South Yorkshire county council, said that services could be kept at existing levels only by raising the county rate by about 40 per cent next year.

Mr Ray O'Brien, Merseyside's chief executive, said: "We had originally expected about £86m in government grants, but the Government's announcement means that we lose every single penny of that."

One of the least critical reactions to the Government's figures came from the Conservative-led Association of District Councils.

The highest increase goes to East Cambridgeshire district council, where the new target will be almost 49 per cent higher than this year's budget Slough, Wansdyke in Avon, Colchester, South Oxfordshire, and Tandridge and Speithorne, in Surrey, have won rises of well above 10 per cent.

● Most of the mainly Conservative boroughs around London have lost significant amount of rate support grant, including the Prime Minister's own borough of Barnet.

THE GAINERS

Councils making significant gains in rate support grant

Cleveland (Lab)	1
Northants (NOC)†	1
GLC (Lab)*	25
Bradford (NOC)†	1
West Midlands (Lab)	3
West Yorks	1

* The GLC, like other councils, would only qualify for the additional grant if it kept to the Government's target
† No overall control

THE LOSERS:

Councils suffering significant cuts in rate support grants

Counties	£m
Avon (Lab)	-10
Cumbria (Lab)	-5
North Yorkshire (C)	-5
London	
Kensington and Chelsea (C)	-4
Tower Hamlets (Lab)	-2
Wandsworth (C)	-1
Barnet (C)	-3
Hillingdon (C)	-3
Richmond (Lib)	-2
Waltham Forest (C)	-1
Metropolitan	
Manchester (Lab)	-10
Liverpool	-5
Gateshead (Lab)	-4
Coventry (Lab)	-3

Councils feeling the pinch (all Labour)

	Amount a council needs to save to reach government target £m
Avon	7
Humberside	4
Hackney	1.5
Islington	4.5
Lambeth	6
Southwark	6
Brent	5
Haringey	7
Newham	4
GLC	297
ILEA	50
Liverpool	0.3
Sheffield	9
Newcastle	2.5
Greater Manchester	10
Merseyside	*10*
West Midlands	11

Rotarian Tendency girds loins for rate-cap battle

By Our Political Correspondent

The Government's hard-line rate-suport grant settlement, taken with next week's expected publication of the Bill on rate-capping, is helping to forge an unusually strong resistance movement within the Tory ranks.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is saying that the 6 per cent cash cuts for local authority high-spenders is a "very tough target indeed in real terms".

But the natural Conservative hostility to such harsh action against "well behaved" authorities, expressed in the Commons on Wednesday, is being reinforced by the significant opposition to Mr Jenkin's plans for rate-capping curbs on local councils.

A joint meeting of the Conservative backbench constitutional and environment committees on Wednesday night was reported yesterday to have shown distaste and discomfort at the prospect and the meeting was said to have been "somewhat moist", but opposition to Mr Jenkin's proposals is also attracting some "dry" reinforecment particularly from the new backbench intake.

It is understood that new Conservative MPs have made their way to Parliament through local government and that their lobbying on its behalf has become a force to be reckoned with. One source said last night that they were being described as the Rotarian Tendency.

Brittan studies ban on solvent kits

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government has decided against legislation to make solvent abuse by individuals an offence. But ministers are considering whether to make the selling of kits intended for it a crime in England and Wales.

The police and magistrates are among those consulted by the Government. They preferred the provision of expert help and prevention to the making of new offences.

Police are to be reminded of existing powers that can be used. The Government is relying on a drive involving health, education, and local government bodies, with shopkeepers, against abuse.

In the Glasgow trial which resulted on Monday in the conviction of two men for selling glue-sniffing kits, the charge was based on Scottish common law, which is more far reaching than English law in that respect.

But Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, in a parliamentary written answer said he was examining the outcome of the case in the light of government proposals for further action against solvent misuse.

The difficulties faced by the Government, apparent at a press conference given yesterday by Mr Patten and Mr David Mellor, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Home Office, are:

There are several thousand products freely on sale which, if sniffed and inhaled, can cause injury, and even death.

Specific laws against those indulging in solvent abuse would be difficult to frame and enforce.

The Government has no official knowledge of any kits on sale in England and Wales.

● Khaliq Raja and Ahmed Raja, the Glasgow shopkeepers, have lodged appeals against their three-year sentences for selling glue sniffing kits to children, imposed by the High Court in Glasgow (our Glasgow Correspondent writes).

Leading article, page 15

Injunction silences royal butler

By Alan Hamilton

Solicitors acting on behalf of Princess Anne have obtained an interim injuction in the High Court restraining the Princess's former butler, Mr Andrew Lightwood, from disclosing details about his royal employment.

Mr Lightwood, aged 23, who had previously worked for four years at Buckingham Palace before a two-month stint at Princess Anne's home at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, fled from his job in October claiming that he had received 14 telephone calls from a man with a strong Irish accent threatening him with death. Gloucestershire police are still investigating.

Mr Lightwood is understood to have been approached by several foreign magazines, but it is believed that no British publication was prepared to negotiate with him. Technically, Mr Lightwood would be in contempt of court if he published confidential revelations anywhere.

Ready for 1984

Finishing touches being applied before George Orwell's wax figure with Big Brother special effects is unveiled at the Madame Tussaud's exhibition in London next Wednesday. Tim Sale, the hair and colouring artist, has added the hair strand by strand (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Chancellor rebuffed on power price

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

A renewed effort by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Echequer, to secure a rise *of 3 per cent in the price of* electricity from April 1 appeared to have failed yesterday when the Cabinet again decided that it should not take legal powers to direct the Electricity Council.

But it was agreed that Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, should again invite the Council's chairman, Mr Philip Jones, to do what he could to meet the Chancellor's wishes.

As after the last Cabinet discussion on the subject on November 10, when Mr Walker was absent in China, conflicting accounts were heard of what had been decided and victory was confidently claimed on behalf of both ministers.

The signs were that Mr Walker would not press Mr Jones too hard, but that the council might agree to an increase of up to 2 per cent in domestic prices during the next 12 months, with no increase for industry.

But it was also clear that the Electricity Council will resist any increase in the price to industry, where it hopes to increase sales. A spokesman said every effort would be made to keep down prices as long as possible.

No further squeeze was put on the electricity industry. The figure of £740m in loan repayments during 1984-85 was confirmed, as was the requirement of a 1.4 per cent annual return on average total net assets.

Treasury ministers said they were satisfied that there would be price increases well below the expected rate of inflation next year, and that the principle of what they call economic pricing, with prices rising in line with costs, had been upheld.

Mr Walker's fiercer colleagues have for weeks proved unwilling to accept that he cannot bend the Electricity Council to his will, given that he appoints and can dismiss its members.

They suspect and perhaps with reason, that he subscribes to the principle which most of them have at some time voiced, that nationlized industries should be set financial targets and then allowed the fullest commercial freedom with the least interference.

New clause removes debt burden

Telecom Bill goes to Lords

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The second Telecommunications Bill had its final reading in the House of Commons yesterday after more than 300 hours of debate and will automatically pass to the House of Lords before becoming law in July.

The Bill is one of the most controversial of recent years as it will denationalize British Telecom, with 51 per cent being sold to the private sector.

It was first introduced in the last parliament but was part of the legislation sacrificed to a June election. When it was introduced the Government had amended it slightly to guarantee British Telecom's supply of telephones, emergency services, and public call boxes.

All three areas had been extremely sensitive politically. MPs on both sides feared that a new Brotosh Telecom whose responsibility to shareholders was to maximize profits would not be interested in uneconomic services.

The Bill empowered the Government to sell shares in the new public limited company and ensure that an Office of Telecommunications would police British Telecom.

The final major amendment took place two days ago. Debenture shares in the new corporation would be held by a "Shell" British Telecom as a means of funding its pre-1969 pension fund liability of £1,250m which is to be paid before 1992 with any outstanding money being paid at 14.5 per cent interest.

The Post Office ceased to be part of the Civil Service in 1969 and the deficiency in the pension fund when it became a nationalized industry was to be made up by the telecommunications arm of the Post Office. This became British Telecom in 1980.

The amendment ensures that the new British Telecom will not carry the debt in case it discouraged investors.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Social workers may end homes action

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

An end to the action, which has affected local authority homes for children in care and the elderly for the past three months was in sight last night as residential social workers belonging to the National and Local Government Association (Nalgo) voted by a clear majority against increasing it.

A recommendation to call off the action and accept a joint inquiry on pay and hours under an independent chairman is now to be put to a delegate meeting of the 25,000 residential social workers next Thursday.

Both Nalgo's local government committee and strike committee are recommending an end to the action and acceptance of the peace formula devised by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service

Since September 12 the residential social workers have been banning overtime and admissions to local authority homes for the elderly, children and disabled.

Paper called to court

A front page headline and picture in an edition of *The Sun* on Wednesday is to be referred to the Attorney General. The paper's legal representatives were ordered to appear before Mr Justice Drake at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday. The headline concerned the case beging heard at the court of a couple accused of ill-treating their baby daughter.

The headline said "Baby was 'blinded by dad' ". There was also a picture of the accused father.

Miss Eily Goodall, representing *The Sun*, told the judge the paper took the complaint seriously and did not think it was contempt.

If it was regarded as a contempt, the newspaper was extremely sorry.

Research institutes to close

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Two research laboratories are to be closed and up to 500 staff made redundant under a new corporate plan made public yesterday by the Agricultural and Food Research Council.

The two institutes, whose closure had been widely predicted, are the Letcombe laboratory, near Wantage, Oxfordshire, and the Weed Research Organization (WRO), at Yarnton, near Oxford. Both are owned and funded by the council, and were thus seen as more obvious targets than the research units which are only partially dependent upon government finance.

Dr Ralph Riley, the council's secretary, said yesterday that he realized that the programme would create considerable personal distress for some people.

Dr Riley made it clear that the job losses would not be confined to Letcombe and the WRO and that the "misery" would be spread as evenly as possible.

Foetuses 'used in cosmetic research'

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Reporter

Allegations that experiments are carried out in some European countries on live human foetuses for such reasons as cosmetics research are to be investigated by a committee of the European Parliament.

The British Medical Association is demanding evidence to substantiate claims made in a report submitted to the committee on energy, research, and technology in Brussels. The report says that foetuses and embryonic tissue are traded among countries within and outside the EEC.

No countries are mentioned by name in the report, *A Draft Opinion on Experiments on Live Human Embryos*. It was instigated by a group of European MPs, led by Herr Otto Habsburg, of Germany.

The report says: "The use made of live and dead human foetuses has assumed such proportions that this phenomenon must be examined, bearing in mind the clandestine nature of such practices".

According to the report, "experiments are carried out on foetuses between 12 and 21 weeks old which are removed whole and live, then dissected to remove certain organs which are then frozen."

Boy faces Thatcher bomb charges

A north London schoolboy aged 14 who told Scotland Yard anti-terrorist branch detectives that he learnt of bomb making in his class, was accused at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of sending an explosive packet to Mrs Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street.

Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution said that a postal sorter at Islington, who became suspicious of the package because of the childish writing on it, alerted the police, and explosives experts defused the packet.

The boy, from Tottenham, pleaded not guilty to three charges of making an explosive device and sending it through the post to Mrs Thatcher.

The boy had told the police that he had done it to draw attention to himself and for a joke.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Falklands team set up

The Rowntree and Cadbury trusts are to fund a new forum of politicians, academics, businessmen and churchmen which was set up yesterday to promote a peaceful solution to the Falklands dispute.

A total of £15,000 is to be given to the new South Atlantic Council, £5,000 each from the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, the Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Cadbury Trust.

The council has been established mainly by Mr Cyril Townsend, Conservative MP for Bexleyheath, and Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrock, Cumnock and Doon Valley.

Straw burning controls drafted

Strict new controls on straw burning are contained in draft proposals by the Home Office to be sent to local authorities next month.

They include a limit on the area that can be burnt at any one time of six hectares (about 15 acres); firebreaks at least 25 metres wide; the presence of two trained supervisors at every burning; and a requirement to till all ash into the soil within 36 hours.

Four on charity fraud charges

Four men appeared in court yesterday accused of conspiracy to obtain money by deception from the charity Children with Cancer.

Three company directors, Mr Alan Clements, aged 48, a former trustee of the charity, of Took Road, Pinner, Middlesex, Mr Adrian Roman, aged 33, of Walmer Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex, and Mr Robert Parker, aged 31, of Eldred Road, Barking, Essex, and an accountant, Mr Antony Ross, aged 51, a trustee of the charity, of Streatfield Road, Kenton, Middlesex, each face two charges of conspiracy to obtain money by deception. The four were remanded on unconditional bail at Bow Street magistrates' court, central London, until February 9.

Body identified

Murder squad detectives will reveal today the name of the young woman found strangled on the Duke of Marlborough's estate at Stonesfield, Oxfordshire who is believed to be a finnish tourist aged 23.

Explosion charges

Two youths aged 16 and another aged 17 are to appear before Oxford magistrates today charged with causing criminal damage with intent to endanger life after the explosion which damaged a telephone kiosk in the city on Tuesday.

The day sex tangle MP's troubles began

By Ronald Faux

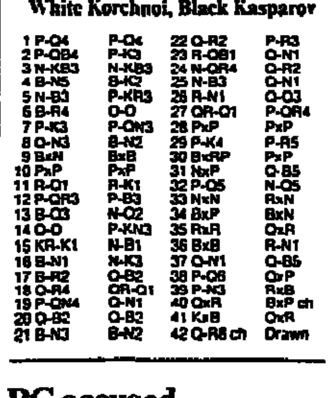
The troubles of Mr Gerald Bermingham, Labour MP for *St Helens South, whose political career reached a crisis last night*, began when he was asked to help an unmarried mother experiencing difficulties with her son, then aged 13.

Mr Bermingham and the woman ended up as lovers – and their affair, with its trail of alleged broken promises, culminated last night in a motion of no confidence being put before an emergency meeting of the constituency management committee of the St Helens South Labour Party.

At a national level, no pressure has been put on Mr Bermingham to resign – party leaders saying that he should stay in the seat and carry on drawing his MP's salary while he sorts out his private life.

Uppermost in the minds of party officials in London was the threat of a by-election and a Social Democratic Party onslaught on the St Helens seat spearheaded by Mrs Shirley Williams, who had held the neighbouring Merseyside seat at Crosby.

Mr Bermingham, who has been married twice, has resigned as senior partner in Irwin, Mitchell and Co, a prominent firm of solicitors in Sheffield. His second wife, Judith, is also a solicitor.



Mr Gerald Bermingham: Political career in crisis.

His troubles began when Miss Ruth Harrison, aged 39, his former political assistant, complained that after she became Mr Bermingham's lover he had exploited and manipulated her and falsely promised that he would leave his wife and marry her.

Hardly had these accusations been made public when it was disclosed that Miss Janet Ball, aged 24, a nursing assistant who met Mr Bermingham in the People's March for Jobs in May, was *also having a relationship with* the MP. Miss Ball is expecting a baby next month.

Miss Harrison said yesterday that she complained to the Law Society about Mr Bermingham's treatment of her because she felt he had taken advantage of her after she consulted him professionally in July, 1980.

"I was a single parent bringing up one son who was at that time nearly 13 years old," she said.

Various difficulties with her son had come to a head and she was extremely upset and distraught. She sought legal advice and approached Mr Bermingham, who as well as being a solicitor was then Labour councillor on the Sheffield Education Committee.

He appeared to be very supportive and understanding, Miss Harrison said. He found a place at boarding school for her son and care proceedings were averted, the sexual relationship began two months after the first meeting and the affair went on for three years.

Mr Bermingham consistently made promises to me which he later reneged upon. *Most important, he had lied* to me about his relationship with his wife and promised he would leave her in order to marry me.

"He constantly demanded that the affair be kept secret, a demand which I respected. As a result I became increasingly isolated and dependent upon him", Miss Harrison said.

She claimed that his alleged treatment reduced her to a state of mental and physical exhaustion. She had been unable to fulfil her post as a staff nurse and when it became clear that Mr Bermingham was not going to marry her, Miss Harrison claimed that he offered to provide life-long support.

"He wrote offering me the post as his political assistant and led me to believe that I would be able to make a vital contribution to his own work and that I had the ability to then embark upon a political career in my own right", Miss Harrison said.

She said that the Law Society had replied that a sexual relationship did not come under the heading of unprofessional conduct.

Draw brings Kasparov near victory

By Harry Golombek

The vital tenth game in the Korochnoi–Kasparov match of the Acorn Computer world championships semi-finals ended in a draw at the Great Eastern Hotel, London, on Wednesday.

Korchnoi, with the white pieces, obtained an impressive position out of the opening and managed for all to break open the position in an attempt to profit. Kasparov met this coolly, and Korchnoi got into time trouble, from which he cleverly extricated himself.

Tenth game
QGD Tartakower variation
White Korchnoi, Black Kasparov

1 P-Q4	P-Q4	22 Q-R2	P-R3
2 P-QB4	P-K3	23 R-QB1	Q-N1
3 N-KB3	N-KB3	24 N-QR4	Q-R2
4 B-N5	B-K2	25 N-B3	Q-N1
5 N-B3	P-KR3	26 R-N1	Q-Q3
6 B-R4	O-O	27 QR-Q1	P-QR4
7 P-K3	P-QN3	28 PxP	PxP
8 Q-N3	B-N2	29 P-K4	P-R5
9 BxN	BxB	30 BxRP	PxP
10 PxP	PxP	31 NxP	Q-B5
11 R-Q1	R-K1	32 P-Q5	N-Q5
12 P-QR3	P-B3	33 NxN	RxN
13 B-Q3	N-Q2	34 BxP	BxN
14 O-O	P-KN3	35 RxR	QxR
15 KR-K1	N-B1	36 BxB	R-N1
16 B-N1	N-K3	37 Q-N1	Q-B5
17 B-R2	Q-B2	38 P-Q6	QxP
18 Q-R4	QR-Q1	39 P-N3	RxB
19 P-QN4	Q-N1	40 QxR	BxP ch
20 Q-B2	Q-B2	41 KxB	QxR
21 B-N3	B-N2	42 Q-R8 ch	Drawn

PC accused

Constable Thomas Andrews of the Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday appeared in a Belfast court accused of murdering a Roman Catholic youth four days ago. He was remanded in custody until Monday.

Collectors join Sotheby's board

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's announced yesterday the addition of some of the world's biggest art collectors, and therefore potential sellers, to its group board as the board met for the first time since the takeover by Mr Alfred Taubman.

Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, who inherited a superb collection housed in Lugano, Switzerland, and has added to it modern masterpieces, heads the list. Then comes Mrs Gordon Getty, of San Francisco, wife of J. Paul Getty's son.

The Far East is represented by Mr Seiji Tsutsumi, chairman of the Seibu group of retail enterprises. Unlike in the West, art exhibitions and sales are run as prestige events by department stores in Japan, with Seibu among the groups most interested in art.

The other new names include Mr Emilio Gioia, of New York, who has property interests, Mr Alexis Gregory, of New York, a publisher, Mrs Milton Petrie, of New York; Mr Earl E. T. Smith, of Palm Beach, a former ambassador; and Mr L. H. Wexner, of Columbus, Ohio, a retailer.

Mr Taubman said that he had found advisers who would repersent not only different parts of the world but also different parts of the United States. They were people who dealt in the art markets of the world, could sense what was happening, and had contacts with customers.

They arrived on Wednesday for committee meetings and to be shown around Sotheby's offices and departments. They were greeted by outstandingly buoyant figures for Sotheby' autumn turnover and annual profits.

With another three or four days of sales to go, Sotherby's had calculated that its autumn turnover was up by more than 70 per cent on last years. That is a figure that needs to be placed in context.

Last autumn was the period when Sotheby's turnover was most affected by the group's financial uncertainties and turnover was much lower than in 1981. Compared to that of 1981, this year's autumn has been more modest although showing a healthy increase of 23 *per cent. The "freak" low figure* of last year distorts the picture.

On the other hand, the company's profit figures for the financial year ended in August was £5.1m, an improvement on the £4m Sotheby's was predicting at the time Mr Taubman made his bid for the company in the summer.

Clock sells for £42,307

By Our Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's have been selling important clocks on both sides of the Atlantic during the past 24 hours. In London yesterday a good example of the great era of British clock making, a silver-mounted ebony spring clock made around 1675 by Joseph Knibb, sold for £24,200 (estimate £20,000-£25,000) to R. A. Lee, the London dealer

In New York this price was put in the shade. The Polar Star Clock, a Fabergé clock in gold, nephrite and enamel in the form of an eight-pointed compass, sold for $60,500 (estimate $30,000-$40,000) or £42,307. The clock dates from around 1890 and was designed for use aboard the Russian Imperial Yacht, the Polar Star.

Sotheby's sale of clocks and watches totalled £188,540, with 21 per cent unsold. They also held a London jewel sale which made £397,403 with 14 per cent unsold and a watercolour sale totalling £67,276 with 17 per cent unsold.

Nissan delay

Nissan of Japan appeared yesterday to have delayed again a decision on its planned United Kingdon car manufacturing plant, this time until early in January. The company's president, Mr Rakashi Ishihara, said in Tokyo he saw only "a 50-50 chance" of reaching agreement win Nissan union leaders before the end on the year.

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 28: Belgium B frs 50: Canada $2.75: Canaries Pes 160: Cyprus 550 mils: Denmark Dkr 7.50: Finland Mkk 8.00: France Frs 7.00: Germany DM 3.50: Greece Dr 100: Holland Gl 3.25: Irish Republic 40p: Italy L 2200: Luxembourg Lf 32: Madeira Esc 120: Morocco Dir 8.00: Norway Kr 7.00: Pakistan Rps 12: Portugal Esc 125: Singapore $5.50: Spain Pes 160: Sweden Skr 8.00: Switzerland S Frs 3.00: Tunisia Din 0.700: USA $1.50: Yugoslavia Din 100

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Kidnap brothers convicted of holding couple in terror for £2m ransom

Two brothers were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of kidnapping a young couple and holding them captive for a £2m ransom.

George Panae, aged 30, a driving instructor, of Telford Avenue, Streatham, and his brother Anastasi, aged 36, a fish shop proprietor, of Dunston Road, Battersea, both south London, will be sentenced today.

They were convicted of kidnapping Mr Emmanuel Xuereb aged 33, a wine merchant, and his wife Maria, 25, from their home at Treesway, Lodge Road, Bromley, Kent, in January, and holding them prisoner for five days at a house in Kemble Road, Croydon.

The brothers were found guilty by the jury's unanimous verdicts after a month-long trial. Both had denied all charges.

A third member of the gang, Donald Gray, aged 27, unemployed, a former boxer, of Raleigh Gardens, Brixton, south London, who pleaded guilty and gave evidence for the Crown, also awaits sentence.

Mr and Mrs Xuereb were kidnapped as they arrived home after a shopping trip and were taken to the Croydon house


George Panae, who demanded £2m ransom

where they were held prisoner, bound, gagged and blindfolded.

They were threatened with death while the gang demanded £2m in cash, gold coins and gold bars from the husband's father, Mr Anthony Xuereb, 60, a Hatton Garden diamond merchant.

The kidnappers threatened to cut off Mr Emmanuel Xuereb's fingers and send them to his father one by one until the ransom was paid and threatened also to cut off his head and "send it home in a box." Mrs Xuereb was also sexually assaulted by one of the kidnappers.

Mrs Xuereb was released alone with a ransom note. She remembered some details about the house's location and was able to locate the address for police, who later stormed the house at dawn. The police had been alerted to the kidnapping and had recorded the calls to Mr Anthony Xuereb.

Mrs Xuereb, had determined to do all she could to trap the gang by identifying the kidnap house.

With her bound hands she clawed at the carpet to force the fibres under her nails. Mrs Xuereb hoped that if they were eventually killed the fibres would assist forensic experts and police to trace the kidnappers. She also bit off some of her nails and left them under her mattress as further clues.

As she sat helpless and blindfolded, her husband held captive in another room, she listened to nearby church bells and guessed their distance. She also gauged the direction of trains running close to the house and managed under her blindfold to catch a glimpse of the grey curtains.

When she was released to exert more pressure for the kidnappers' demands she assessed the distance the car travelled and memorised every left and right turn. Her recollection of the details enabled Anti-Terrorist Squad men to locate the house within 12 hours.


Kidnap victims: Mr and Mrs Xuereb, who were held under threat of death (Photograph: Brian Harris)

Universities will try to curb rowdy students

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

University vice-chancellors sought to reassure Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, at a private meeting this week that they would do all they could to control rowdy students on campuses but at the same time asked that ministers inform them when they were visiting their institutions.

This exchange on the subject of free speech in universities arose at the routine autumn term meeting between the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Minister at Sir Keith's insistence.

He is understood to be distressed by what he calls "barbarism" on the campuses, such as the recent paint-throwing at Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, at Manchester University and the violent picketing of himself at Warwick.

Manchester University was not informed officially of Mr Heseltine's visit, which took place the day after the announcement that cruise missiles had arrived on British soil, and was supposed to be an informal address to the Conservative Society.

Mr Heseltine was barracked by a large group of students who prevented him from speaking for an hour by blocking a staircase and then heckled him.

The Warwick University incident was more organized. Knowing beforehand that Sir Keith was coming, the students' union executive proposed a picket to protest at government cuts of the education service.

One in four motorists drinks and drives

By Michael Baily
Transport Editor

At least one in four motorist drinks and drives; and between the ages of 18 and 34 the proportion is as high as one in three.

That finding, from extensive soundings by Harris Research in London and Nottingham, coincides with yesterday's report in *The Times* that one in four drivers tested for alcohol in a pre-Christmas exercise by Sussex police failed the test.

It will be discussed at 10.30pm today in a London Weekend Television programme, "Driving Drunk in London", which commissioned the research.

Questioned by pollsters, 37 per cent of London motorists (48 per cent of those aged between 25 and 34) admitted that they drank and drove occasionally or often. Half of those questioned thought it unlikely that they would be caught.

Road safety experts say that motorists' perception of their chance of being caught is crucial in determining whether they drink and drive. And the research suggests that this is far lower in London than in Nottingham.

Drivers in Nottingham are five times more likely to be breath-tested than in London, according to Home Office figures. Last year the Metropolitan Police carried out 3.3 tests for every 1,000 Londoners. The national average is 4.2, and the police in Nottinghamshire carried out 15.8 to top the national league.

Shoplifting WPC fought to escape

Woman Police Constable Susan Hillier put up a struggle after being caught shoplifting and tried three times to escape from a store detective, magistrates in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, were told yesterday.

Mr James Coussey, for the prosecution, said Hillier had been on a shoplifting spree.

He said that despite being caught red-handed in Tesco's store, Cheltenham, where she was seen putting steaks and beef into a bag, Hillier protested her innocence to fellow officers.

Hillier, aged 31, of St George's Road, Cheltenham, admitted three charges of stealing food and clothes, worth a total of £35. She had been in the police force for 11 years, including two years as a detective. She resigned from the force on Tuesday.

Hillier was remanded until January 12 for reports.

Valve error caused Sellafield leak

By Ronald Faux

Mr Con Allday, chairman and chief executive of British Nuclear Fuels, admitted yesterday that a misunderstanding between shift managers led to the discharge of a radioactive slick into the Irish Sea five weeks ago.

The incident caused contamination to the beach near the Sellafield formerly Windscale reprocessing plant on the Cumbria coast.

At a press conference at Sellafield Mr Allday said that a valve was turned because a manager had not read a record made in the log book three days earlier. He did not know that high-level radioactivity had not been removed from water in a tank.

The error was a genuine misunderstanding, Mr Allday said although it should not have happened he was satisfied that the people involved had acted conscientiously and in good faith. No one was to be suspended or dismissed.

"This incident is serious for the company and for the nuclear industry. We must make sure nothing like it happens again", Mr Allday said. "I am sorry it has caused concern and alarm and that we have fallen from the very highest standards I expect. But there is no evidence that anyone has been hurt or that there was a significant hazard to the public."

The Department of the Environment has not yet lifted its warning to the public not to use the beach near Sellafield.

Mr Allday added: "We are confident with a high degree of certainty that it will not happen again because of new procedures including improved record-keeping, but no one can give absolute guarantees."

BBC shelves plan for pay-TV

By David Hewson and Bill Johnstone

The BBC put its satellite broadcasting plans on ice yesterday after deciding that its proposals for a launch in 1986 of a pay television service were unviable.

The decision, at a meeting of the governors, does not rule out the corporation's involvement in later satellite projects, but appears to shelve immediate plans for a two-channel service showing films and entertainment programmes.

A Broadcasting House statement said: "The board recognized the great difficulties which remain to be overcome by the BBC, industry and others in establishing a viable DBS (direct broadcasting by satellite) service, but concluded that the BBC should continue to explore all possibilities which will lead to the setting up of a British DBS system."

United Satellites the prospective manufacturers of the BBC satellite system, remains convinced that the 1986 deadline for the television satellite launch can be met, despite the BBC's reluctance to sign a full contract.

The management of Unisat, a consortium of British Aerospace, British Telecom and GEC-Marconi, is nervous about saying anything which might jeopardize the contract. Mr Daniel Gruneberg, managing director, said he was disappointed that no contract has been signed.

He said: "I would like them to have signed a long time ago. We recognize all the profound issues that are at stake. The complexities are quite astonishing".

Studies by the BBC on consumer response to the satellite service concluded that 200,000 subscribers would be the minimum needed for launch.

Threat of holiday pub strikes

By Richard Evans

An unprecedented strike which will shut 280 public houses in northern England today could spread throughout Britain during the Christmas and new year festivities.

The National Association of Licensed House Managers gave unanimous backing yesterday to industrial action planned by managers employed by Pennine Host, the northern arm of a Grand Metropolitan subsidiary, over pay and conditions.

The strike will shut Host's northern public houses today, on the two days before Christmas Day and New Year's Day, and on January 1.

The Host group runs about 1500 public houses

Mr David Carter, the association's national secretary, said last night many of the elements in Host's pay package would reduce managers' pay

Video editors' 'high' pay

By David Hewson

London Weekend Television said yesterday that one of its videotape recorder editors had been earning £100,000 a year, not three as reported in *The Times*. The company refused to disclose the pay of its other video editors but conceded that they were "high".

Figures supplied by LWT to Companies House show that for the year ending July, 1982, three employees – each believed to be a video editor, earned, respectively, between £95,000 and £100,000, between £80,000 and £85,000, and between £70,000 and £75,000.

It is understood that overtime earnings by the same three employees substantially increased their wages this year.

The highest paid company director at LWT in 1982 received £54,299. In the same year 233 workers received between £20,000 and £25,000; 113, £25,000 to £30,000; 19, £30,000 to £35,000; eight, £35,000 to £40,000; 17, £40,000 to £45,00 and three received £55,00 to £60,000.

LWT denied that the videotape recorder team shift leader who earned more than £100,000 last year received such high wages because of a local agreement. It said that the payments resulted from a national ITV agreement, though it is understood that no other ITV company has video editors who regularly earn more than £50.00 a year.

Bobby Moore on drink charge

Bobby Moore, the former England football captain, was yesterday charged with a driving offence after a breath test conducted by Bedfordshire police. After a further test at Biggleswade police station, he was charged and bailed to appear in court at a date to be fixed.

Moore, who retired as a player six years ago, and who led England to the World Cup victory in 1966, was appointed chief executive of Southend United in the summer.

Arafat to stand for rector post

Mr Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has agreed to stand as a candidate for rector of Glasgow University next March. Mr Abdul Ibrahim, president of the university's Palestine Action Society, who has campaigned for Mr Arafat's candidacy says that the election campaign will promote the cause of the Palestinian people as part of the negotiated peace in the Middle East.

Quigley remand on bomb charge

Thomas Quigley, aged 28, of Glenalina Road, Belfast, was yesterday remanded in custody for a week at Lambeth Magistrates' Court, south London, accused of conspiring with others to cause explosions likely to endanger life or damage property.

The hearing lasted two minutes.

Shots fired in BR robbery

Masked men fired shots when they held up a security vehicle at Hoo Junction, Lower Shorne, near Gravesend, Kent, yesterday and stole £150,000 worth of British Rail wages.

British Rail staff gave chase in a car but eventually lost the raiders' van, which was later found abandoned at Strood, near Rochester.

Scots arrest

Mr Ian Howell, aged 28, who was being sought for questioning about the death of Jennifer Wright, whose body was found in a hostel in Oxford last week, was arrested near Inverness late on Wednesday.

Christmas lights

Mrs Mary Scotney, aged 76, switched a thousand Christmas lights on yesterday at her home and garden in Nene Parade, at March, Cambridgeshire, where the centrepiece is a 30ft high tree.

Retreat in time for two Royal Green Jackets.

In the steps of Sir John

Eight men from the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets will spend their Christmas leave in nineteenth-century uniform, retracing the steps of Sir John Moore's retreat to Corunna in 1808.

The men, led by Captain Charles Blackmore, will leave Sahagun, south-east of Leon, on Christmas Eve and march to the same timings and follow the same route as Sir John's division, reaching Corunna, more than 300 miles to the north-west, on January 13.

Sir John safely withdrew his men, who had been in danger of encirclement by Napoleon's army, but was killed in battle on January 16, 1808. (Photograph: Brian Harris)

Arab cash for Chelsea footballers

By John Lawless

Chelsea Football Club yesterday became the first British club to be sponsored by an Arab backer when Gulf Air announced that it is to inject "a considerable sum" into the second division promotion challengers.

Gulf Air is thought to be paying £150,000 to have its name on the Chelsea shirts for just the remaining half of this season.

Mr Ken Bates, the club chairman, said that it would represent the most lucrative deal in football sponsorship if it is carried through to next season, which may depend on whether Chelsea does indeed climb back to the first division.

British football supporters have only just got used to their game being propped up by cash from Japanese corporations, with Canon sponsoring the League and JVC backing Arsenal.

But the Chelsea coup, celebrated at the Stamford Bridge ground, with coffee and dates in honour of their teetotal guests, is unique.

The contract calls for Chelsea to send its coaching specialists into the four states, which own the airline: Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. "And the most promising players will come back to Chelsea to train and, hopefully, to play in the British league", Mr Bates said.

The prospects are favourable for Chelsea getting a renewal of the deal next year. The club is second in the second division, and Gulf Air was one of the world's few airline profitmakers last year, making $39m.

Schoolboy takes driving test man to court

Mr Andrew Rowland, aged 18, failed his driving test last week because of undue hesitancy. Torquay Magistrates' Court in Devon was told yesterday. But it was the examiner, Mr Barry James, who was the hesitant one, magistrates were told.

Mr James did not signal for Mr Rowland to do his emergency stop until nine minutes after he had first warned him it would be coming.

Mr Rowland, who is studying for his A levels at Torquay Grammer School, took Mr James to court in a rare case to have the test deemed to have been conducted improperly. But the magistrates found in Mr James' favour and ordered Mr Rowland to pay £30 costs.

Private health insurance subscriptions to rise

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Sharp increases in private health insurance are on the way from January for some subscribers to Private Patients Plan (PPP), the second largest of the health insuarnce groups.

Subscriptions will rise to a level about 15 per cent higher than a year ago for many individual subscribers, with increases ranging from 7.5 per cent to 35 per cent on last January.

The rise for members in small company-paid schemes will be between 26 per cent and 34 per cent on last January's rates. But the increases in some of PPP's large voluntary paid groups will be far smaller.

The increases come as Bupa has announced that its subscriptions will go up by between only 4 per cent and 10 per cent in January on the rates a year ago.

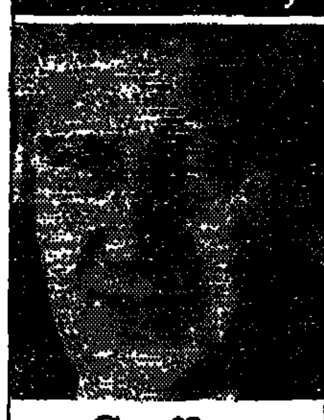
But the net effect of the changes is to leave the two groups, which between them share most of the market, broadly competitive.

Direct comparisons between subscription rates are complicated by differences in terms and conditions, but Bupa's individual subscription for a married man aged 30 to 49 with two children, providing cover for private and teaching hospitals outside London, will now be £434 a year.

PPP's equivalent will be £381 in the 30 to 39 age group, but £440 for those aged 45 to 49.

PARLIAMENT December 15 1983

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

Mr Len Murray's victory has a significance that goes well beyond the NGA and the newspaper industry. It confirms the trend that became evident at the TUC in Blackpool in September towards moderation and a greater emphasis on the industrial role of the unions in the leadership of the movement. This is an approach that requires fewer political gestures, fewer strikes on principle and a greater readiness to calculate the odds before acting.

The odds in this instance were that the NGA was unlikely to win, that the trade union movement as a whole could not be mobilized in its support, and that to back the NGA in unlawful action would expose the TUC both financially and politically. In its new hardheaded mood the general council was prepared to draw these conclusions before committing itself to action.

It is a mood that reinforces and has been reinforced by Mr Murray's more assertive leadership. For years his style was distinctly cautious. Now that he feels sure of support he is taking a more positive line that gives point and coherence to trends that might otherwise not be expressed in consistent decisions. He embodies the new mood.

No assurance of industrial peace

It does not offer an assurance of industrial peace. My guess is that when the moderate leaders do get into a dispute they will be determined to prove that they are no pushover. But they will be reluctant to give TUC backing to futile, self-destructive strikes. That in itself should be a development of no small importance.

But there are broader conclusions to be drawn from this episode. It means that the Government's industrial relations legislation will be enforced. The unions will seek to persuade the Government to modify its new proposals. They will hope that a future government will repeal the Thatcher legislation. But they will not be able to prevent its being put into effect during the lifetime of this Government.

Whether the legislation endures beyond that will depend upon whether it becomes part of what Sir Keith Joseph has termed "the common ground" – whether, in other words, it becomes so generally accepted by the country at large that no administration would dare to discard it.

As members of the Government, ministers have every reason to be pleased that the unions will not be able to block the implementation of the industrial relations laws. But as Conservative politicians they may have rather more cause for concern. The unons will know that the only way to get rid of the legislation will be to get rid of the Government, which may induce them to give more wholehearted support to the Labour Party than they might otherwise have done.

Opting for more limited role

The unions are now opting for a more limited role than the one they have aspired to previously. So long as the present trend continues here will be no nonsense about seeking to make and break governments The tendency will be for union leaders to concentrate on getting the best that they can for their members on the basis of excisting laws by dealing with whatever party is elected to office.

The more limited role should be popular, or at least less unpopular, with the public. It accords with the general idea of what unions are there for. It should also lead to fewer of those excesses which have done so much to bring the trade union movement a bad name in recent years. If this is so, it will be good for the economic and social life of the country. It would also suggest that the unions might become less of a bogey, and that association with them might become rather less of a handicap for the Labour Party.

But while the trend is towards moderation at the top of the union movement, it would be foolish to suppose that the militants have melted away. There are a number of important unions which remain under hardline control or at least very much subject to hardline influence. If that continues, and there is no evidence that it will not, the prospect will be for a greater polarization between moderate and militant unions.

The majority of unions may be becoming more realistic, but will it still be possible to think of a single, reasonably coherent union movement?

Action, if need be, over rebate

EEC BUDGET

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons that she was greatly disappointed by the decision taken in the European Parliament this (Thursday) morning to freeze payment of Britain's refund of budget contributions. However, this had happened last year and the refunds were paid by the end of March.

Replying to a call from Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, for Britain to withold payments to the EEC in protest, she said that if Britain did not get its full refund it might have to take action to safeguard its position.

Mr Kinnock said: in view of the provocative and prejudiced action of the European Parliament, will the Prime Minister now withold the £475m from our contribution in lieu of the rebate which is rightfully belonging to the British people. (Labour cheers).

Mrs Thatcher: Like him, I was greatly disappointed by the vote in the European Parliament. So far, the Community is not in default with Britain. This time last year the Parliament rejected a budget containing United Kingdom refunds nevertheless were in the end paid by the end of March.

Mr Kinnock: All that means is that we are 12 months nearer crisis without resolving it. The condemnation and disappointment from the Prime Minister is nothing more than huffing and puffing. (Conservative laughter).

Lack of decisive action will simply be read as further equivocation by her on this issue. Why is she so resolved to be irresolute? Why is she so wet on this subject?

Will she take the lead on behalf of the British people and insist on fundamental reform of the common agricultural policy so we are not ruled any longer by the convenience of others, not until next March, or next time or any time in the future?

Mrs Thatcher: He has repeatedly shown I cannot rival him in huffing and puffing. (Conservative cheers). This time last year the European Assembly passed a similar resolution. Nevertheless, we got our full refunds on time. It is, therefore, possible that we may get our full refunds on time.

If not, we shall have to take action to safeguard our position. I hope that will not be necessary, but if it were we would have to take it.

Sir Hugh Fraser (Stafford, C): At this time of good will, will the Prime Minister suggest to her colleagues, heads of state and prime ministers, that in view of the problems of the EEC, next year's elections should be postponed until it is clear what we are going to vote for?

Mrs Thatcher: Such a proposal would be far from welcome and I am not sure whether it would be welcome in this House to postpone that election.

It would be far better if the election went ahead on time and the heads of Government, in the two meetings before that, made the strongest effort to solve the problems which were not solved at Athens.

£3.7m to police Greenham

It has cost the Thames Valley police authority about £3,700,000 to police Greenham Common airbase, Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply.

Murray's action praised

NGA DISPUTE

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time that she welcomed the courageous action of the General Secretary of the TUC (Mr Len Murray) and those who supported him in deciding not to contravene the Employment Act.

She had been asked by Mr Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, C) Has she noted the contrast between the responsible line taken by Mr Len Murray and the majority of the TUC general council on actions in breach of the law and the blanket statement in support of the National Graphical Association issued by the Campaign Group of Labour MPs, one of whom is Mr Michael Meacher (Oldham West), a member of the Shadow Cabinet? What conclusions does she draw from this?

Mrs Thatcher: I hope those MPs will unequivocally support the decision of the general council of the TUC.

Trade union leaders who opposed personal freedom should not be ennobled, Mr Eric Cockeram (Ludlow, C) said later.

Mrs Thatcher: He will know that many will stand up for personal freedom and have upheld the law. It would be as well if we did not in this House go into questions about honours.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday, Motion for the Christmas adjournment. Proceeding on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Tuesday: Health and Social Security Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Housing and Building Control Bill, remaining stages.

Thursday: Christmas adjournment debates.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Cable and Broadcasting Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Roads (Scotland) Bill, committee. Amusement Machines Bill, committee.

Wednesday: Coal Industry Bill, second reading. Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, second reading. Animal Health and Welfare Bill, second reading.

Minister's warning to councils who overspend budget

SCOTTISH RATES

Urging Scottish local authorities to get their spending into line with expenditure provision, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said in the Commons that if they did there could on average be a decrease in rates, although he accepted that the individual circumstances of authorities would produce variations around the average.

In a statement on the rate support grant settlement for Scotland for 1984-85, he said he considered it to be a very fair settlement. There was no need for rates to go up if authorities reduced their expenditure, as he had been urging them to do since 1979.

If authorities overspend (he added) I will take appropriate action but I hope that authorities will make that unnecessary.

He said he would lay before the House in due course an RSG order and report for 1984-85 providing for total relevant expenditure of £3,205.9m and aggregate grants of £1,930m. Current expenditure within the total was £2,736.6m, slightly above the provisional figure announced in July, reflecting mainly technical adjustments. The rate of grant was 60.2 per cent compared with 61.7 per cent in the present year.

The provision for relevant expenditure represents a cash increase of 3.8 per cent over the provision for 1983-84 once account is taken of the reduction in the national insurance surcharge. It is also some £60m above the provision for 1984-85 indicated in the public expenditure White Paper. For 1984-85 £75m will not be allocated to services in recognition that authorities are likely to spend more than the Government considers desirable.

Current expenditure guidelines were issued to all authorities on November 18 1983. Guidlines for 1984-85 include the provision not allocated to services and have been constructed to take account of the relative spending needs of authorities.

In 1984-85 the needs element (which accounts for 87 per cent of rate support grant) will be distributed on the same basis as that on which guidelines are constructed, namely the client group.

Although Cosla officially asked that this change should be deferred until 1985-86, there is a wide measure of agreement that this method offers a much more systematic approach to distribution and I did not wish to make the change coincide with the general property revaluation of April 1985. It will mean changes in the amount of grant paid to a number of authorities.

In order to dampen the effects, I propose transitional arrangements which will limit the grant loss to authorities to the equivalent of a 2½p rate at regional level and a 1p rate at district level.

All authorities have been told in finance circular 14/1983 issued on December 14 of the amounts of grant they will receive in 1984-85 if the House approves the rate support grant order.

He later agreed with Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C) that despite the annual ritual cries from Cosla, authorities such as Dumfries and Galloway had reduced rates last year to the benefit of both industry and ratepayers.

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said the statement confirmed that the Government was determined to pursue its wrong-headed vendetta against local services and those who used them.

We regard this statement (he said) as a wretched Christmas present for the ratepayers and those who depend on local services. Mr



Younger: No need for rates to go up

Younger has, over the years, established his reputation as an ungenerous Scrooge and it is high time that he repented and reversed these unreasonable policies.

Mr Younger said his generosity in grants had only been reflected in increased spending which had put a burden on ratepayers who had wanted spending reductions.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) said Mr Younger could talk until he was blue in the face but all The Government was dishonest in boasting about reducing the figures for civil servants because DHSS work has been passed to local authorities just when they were going to get less money to do it.

Mr Younger said the cuts Mr Stewart had talked of were not borne out by the facts. Corrected for inflation, local authority spending in 1978-79 was £2,517m; in the current year it was £2,661m in real terms.

Mr Richard Douglas (West Dunfermline, Lab): Which authorities have indicated to him that they might reduce their rates? What will be the effect of this policy on the fabric of local democracy?

Mr Younger: On average, if local authorities were to meet the expenditure figures I have put down – and over 20 of them are already doing that in the current year – they would be able to reduce rates by between five and six per cent.

Local democracy is unimpaired by the fact that, as the previous government and this Government have always insisted, the national economy has to have some assurance that local authorities will not eat up too much of the public expenditure available.

Procedure for complaints against police

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, has concluded that no case has been made out for radical changes to present arrangements for dealing with complaints against police in Scotland. In a written reply in the Commons, he said his conclusion followed reactions to a consultation document issued in October last year.

He said that specific areas had been identified where modest improvements could be made, where guidance would be desirable and existing good practices in individual forces might be extended nationally.

In particular, some clarification of the "double jeopardy" rule would be helpful and he was considering with the Lord Advocate what guidance might be issued to chief constables.

Prospects for developing a stable fishing industry

FISHERIES

The last piece of the common fisheries policy jigsaw was now in place and the Government was already into discussions about the 1984 total allowable catches, Mr Michael Jopling Minister of Agriculture, fisheries and Food declared in the Commons.

He was reporting on the decisions made yesterday by the EEC Council of Fisheries Ministers which, he explained resolved the main outstanding problems affecting the common fisheries policy and started talks on the total allowable catches and quotas for 1984. There was now, he said, every prospect of developing the effectiveness of the policy providing a secure and stable basis for the fishing industry in future.

He said that the Council had at last agreed on the percentage allocations of North Sea herring. The settlement reached was very satisfactory from the United Kingdom point of view.

At a total availability of 155,000 tonnes, which is about the level expected in 1984, the United Kingdom will (he said) obtain 24.15 per cent of the total, after allocating the fixed quantity of 7.100 tonnes to Belgium; while at a level of 251,000 tonnes we will obtain 23 per cent, after allocating 6,000 tonnes to Belgium.

These shares are well in excess of the United Kingdom's share of the historic catches which averaged only 16 per cent between 1960 and 1976. Throughout the negotiations on this difficult subject I have stayed in close touch with representatives of the industry and I am grateful for the strong and sensible support which they have given. They welcomed the settlement reached.

At my request the EEC Commission are approaching the Norwegians today (Thursday) to seek to establish arrangements which will permit fishing for herring in the North Sea to commence as early as possible in 1984.

The Council also endorsed the agreement between the Community and Norway on total allowable catches (TACs) and shares of the joint stocks other than herring and on reciprocal fishing rights. There is some concern about the level of the TACs for North Sea white fish stocks. We had previously managed to obtain larger transfers of cod from the Norwegians but, again at my request, the Commission have undertaken urgently to discuss with the Norwegians increased availability of North Sea cod.

The Council went on to agree on TACs and quotas for 1983, including a number of improvements which we secured in the negotiations on stocks of interest to our fishermen.

There was a preliminary discussion of the Commission's proposals for TACs and quotas for 1984 on which I raised a mumber of points of concern to the United Kingdom. The Council will resume discussion of these proposals at its next meeting in January. For the month of January, the Council agreed that fishing should continue on the basis of a rollover of the 1983 quotas as modified by the Agreement with Norway.

Lastly, the Community's agreement with Canada was approved by the Council. This provides for some fishing opportunities for the UK in Canadian waters and for fair and effective trade arrangements which adequately protect our catchers and processors.

Sir Michael Shaw (Scarborough, C): He deserves the congratulations not only of the whole House but of the whole of the British fishing industry for the hard and constructive work that he has carried out on their behalf.

By his hard work he has shown

Shaw: A fair and constructive future

that agreement can be reached so as to bring about a fair and constructive future for the fishing industry.

Would he give an assurance that, having got this far, he will continue to spare no effort to make sure that the agreement of the 1984 quotas and the implementation of the agreement that has been won will be carried through?

Mr Jopling: I am greatful for his most generous words. We shall begin as soon as possible to continue this work which was started yesterday. One very helpful thing about 1984 quotas has been we have already discussed them within a few days of the Commission publishing them and I shall seek to get them put into effect as soon as possible.

Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby, Lab): Will he undertake to see there is no reduction in our North Sea cod catches and failing that, what steps will be take for compensation, in financial terms or in other quotas, for an industry which is gong to suffer badly if they are reduced.

Mr Jopling: I am well aware of the problems which arise with regard to the North Sea cod stocks. The scientists' original proposal was on the basis of 182,000 tonnes. I put immmediate pressure on the Commission to do whatever was possible to persuade the scientists to raise their estimates and, as a consequence of that pressure, this has been increased to 215,000 tonnes. I am still not satisfied with that and that is why the Commission at my request have today begun discussions with Norway to raise that quota.

Mr John Townend (Bridlington, C): Is he aware that as a result of opening up the North Sea to herring fishing the area between six and 12 miles off the coast of Bridlington will be open for French herring fishermen for the first time in living memory.

What efforts will be made to make sure the French only fish for herring and not other species and do not damage the fixed gear of the British fishermen?

Mr Jopling: The best thing is that we ought to see how we get on and if we start finding any evidence that there are abuses of the rules in the areas close to his constituency I hope he and I will be able discuss it and take the appropriate action.

Mr Robert Hughes, chief Opposition spokesman on fisheries (Aberdeen North, Lab): The agreement seems to be precisely the same as that on the table in October this year. The quota concluded is still well below the demand from the industry for 34 per cent of the catch of herring.

It was the wise management and wise political decisions taken by the previous Labour government which made sure there was any herring left.

It is hardly a magnificent victory since the issue will be reopened in January because we will then have to begin the round of deciding the 1984 catches.

Our North Sea cod share will be cut by 18 per cent and the proposition for North sea herring is that our share will be cut by 7 per cent and, contrary to the industry being satisfied, they are arguing that the cost to the fleet will be £80m.

We went through the whole of 1893 with stop-gap solutions and we are going to go through the whole of 1984 on precisely the same basis.

Mr Jopling: He said the figures agreed yesterday for North Sea herring were the same as a few weeks ago. That is not strictly true. There are important changes in those figures and these small but vital changes gave us the deal we got.

When he said the industry was looking for a higher figure than the one we have settled, there is a crucial difference. The higher figures were on the basis of a very much lower total allowable catch of 87,000 tonnes, where we are now talking about 150,000 tonnes.

He is utterly wrong in saying the agreement on herring yesterday means we have got to start again in a short time. The agreement we made yesterday with regard to herring will have staying power for the years ahead and there will be no renegotiation of the case we arranged yesterday.

Bid to stop salmon poaching

FISH AND FOOD

The Government is considering measures to reduce the numbers of salmon taken illegally especially by organized gangs within the 12 mile limit, Mr John MacGregor, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told the commons at question time. In particular, proposals for a salmon tagging scheme made in the report *Salmon Conservation – A New Approach* were being examined to see whether they could be given practical application.

We shall (he went on) announce the results of this examination and those concerning the other salmon issues set out in our consultation paper on the review of inland and coastal fisheries in England and Wales, as soon as possible.

As for the intercepting fisheries beyond 12 miles, these now come within the scope of the recently established North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization.

The organization's first meeting will take place in Edinburgh from January 16, 1984, and we shall seek to ensure that it plays an effective role in safeguarding our salmon stocks.

Mr Roy Mason (Barnsley Central, Lab): He should take steps to ban the use of monofilament gill nets and to restrict the issue of licences to salmon netters netting salmon off the coastline and in the estuaries of the salmon rivers.

Mr MacGregor: I am anxious to do something as quickly as possible on salmon netting. My department has examined it and I shall discuss it with Lord Gray of Contim, Minister of State for Scotland, who has been having a series of meetings with special interests north of the border.

On fishing nets, our scientists are researching into the effects but have so far found no firm evidence that the rate of escape is greater than from other nets or that in escaping more severe damage is done to individual fish.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L): Will he distinguish between poaching and properly regulated legal fishing both at sea and in the rivers which provides a livelihood for fishermen in areas like Northuberland?

Mr MacGregor: It is poaching in particular which we are most concerned about.

Tougher rules to control straw burning

Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in the Commons that she had been discussing with the National Farmers Union a stronger code for straw burning which would be backed by tougher new model by-laws.

She hoped this would be in time for district councils to make their by-laws before the next season.

Mrs Fenner was answering Commons questions on the problems caused by burning of straw and stubble waste. During which Mr John Farr (Harborough, C) had said it would help if a revised and strict voluntary code on straw burning could be introduced before the summer. The present system had not worked.

Mr Clement Freud (Cambridgeshire North East, L) asked what encouragement Mrs Fenner would give to industry to make surplus stubble and straw into briquettes for heating or cattle food.

Mrs Fenner The ministry has for some time involved industrialists in a group looking at ways of using surplus straw. We are contributing £2m to research into different ways which I hope can be made commercial.

Import of paté de fois gras to continue

Mrs Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, replying to a Commons question, said she knew of no evidence to justify controls on the importation of paté de foie gras into the United Kingdom.

Mr Phillip Oppenheim (Amber Valley, C): Extreme cruelty is involved in the production of this paté, most of which is produced in France and eastern Europe. Anyone attempting to produce it in the United Kingdom would almost certainly be prosecuted under the 1876 Cruelty to Animals Act.

Is there not an excellent case for a total ban of this luxury product?

Mrs Fenner: In 1974 under the auspices of the Council of Europe there was a special inquiry by a group of experts into this practice in France. They concluded that although they did not find the practice particularly appealing they saw no evidence of suffering or cruelty. I know of no new evidence.

We work hard to promote animal welfare through international agreement throughout the Community and the world.

Bill will allow Stock Exchange to evolve

HOUSE OF LORDS

Changes in practices proposed by the Stock Exchange would enable it to operate in a freer, more competitive atmosphere and fully justified the Government's decision that litigation through the Restrictive Practices Court should not proceed Lord Cockfield, speaking for the Government, said in the House of Lords when moving the second reading of the Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange Bill).

The Bill exempts certain agreements relating to the Stock Exchange from the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976, and ends the court action. It is estimated the provision of the Bill will save £500,000 in public expenditure.

Lord Cockfield said the Government took the view that uncertainty over the Stock Exchange's future resulting in the long period before litigation would be resolved, was inhibiting the Stock Exchange from responding to changing circumstances and opportunities.

The Stock Exchange had cooperated fully over the changes proposed which would allow it to evolve and respond to changes under the spur of competition, particularly international competition.

Change is already evident (he said) and proceeding at a greater rate than many would have thought possible and that is all to the good.

The Government's decision that the matters should be dealt with by Acts of Parliament was fully justified. Law enforcement agencies must proceed under the law as it stood and responsibility fot the law rested with Parliament and no one else.

Lord Bruce of Donington (Lab), for the Opposition, said the basic principles behind the Bill amounted to an interference with the process of law, which Parliament had a right to do.

But (he said) it was very, very rarely interfered with the process of law once that process has got into operation.

There had been no mention of the Bill before the election, but it had come into being immediately afterwards. That meant either there had been a gross error of judgment in the first instance in referring the matter to court, ot there had been a complete volte face by the Government since.

What the Government was doing in the Bill was giving itself liberty to arrive at agreements with the Stock Exchange that might infringe the rules of free competition and monopoly.

It was a bad precedent. It gave some colour to the belief that there was one law for the strong who had money power behind them and another for the weak.

Lord Brabazon of Tara (C), a member of the Stock Exchange, in a maiden speech, said he was in favour of the Bill as he thought the majority of the members were. The rule book as it now existed was mainly to protect the public.

The arrangements between the Secretary of State and the chairman of the Stock Exchange had attracted some criticism. But he would remind the House that the Stock Exchange motto was "My word is my bond".

If we have said (he added) that we will deliver the goods we will, I am sure.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C), said he was less happy about the Bill than any other which had been proposed during the session. It seemed to be contrary to the general philosophy and approach of the Government because the emphasis which had previously been placed on competition and the operation of the law, seemed to be a little blurred by the proposals.

It was impossible to get away from the suggestion that it involved some interference in the operation of the law. He was puzzled as to why the action was being taken now when the reference to the court had been made five years ago.

Lord Cockfield, replying, said the Stock Exchange had progressively shown a greater willingness to adapt itself and to abandon many of its restrictive practices.

The Bill was read a second time.

Minister criticizes gas and electricity campaigns

ADVERTISING

An advertising campaign between the gas and electricity industries was described in the House of Lords by The Earl of Avon, a Government spokesman, as unfortunate. He said it had been drawn to the attention of the industries and he believed that it would not happen again.

Lady Burton of Coventry (SDP) had asked whether it was correct that between July 1982 and June 1983 the nationalized gas and electricity industries spent £21,800,000 on advertising and promotion.

The result of the advertising battle being waged by these two state owned industries (she said) was that consumers are in utter confusion as to which is true of the various conflicting claims.

She recalled that in a statement on the NHS and pharmaceutical profits the Government announced a compulsory reduction in the amount spent on advertising and promotion. It should consider doing the same for these two equally nationalized industries.

The Earl of Avon replied that the figures for advertising were £22m for one industry and £23m for the other.

On this campaign (he went on) I would agree that we all deplore advertising which is a denigration of products. To the extent that this took place, I think it was unfortunate.

Lady Burton of Coventry said the Advertising Standards Authority must reach a decision whether the claims were misleading or accurate.

The Earl of Avon explained that the current campaign against the electricity supply industry was being paid for by a private consortium of manufacturers and not by the Gas Corporation.

The electricity industry had taken an advertisement to the Advertising Standards Authority and a report on it was coming out shortly.

Lord Stoddart, for the Opposition: I am glad the minister deprecated this type of yahboo advertising

The Earl of Avon said that of the amount spent on electricity advertising £9m was on energy efficiency and £1m on education.

Wheel clamps

Between May 16, when the experimental wheel clamping scheme was introduced, and November 18, 22,430 vehicles were clamped and the gross revenue, received up to November 18 was £431,418, Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, told the House of Lords at question time.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): House Buyers Bill, second reading. Lords (11): Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) (No 2) Bill and Disabled Persons Bill, second readings.

News control in war of electronics age

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

In a big, but non-nuclear, war international communications by telephone and telex would have to be severely restricted. A system of censorship of the press, television and radio would be required, and the Government would need to take powers to close publications which did not conform.

Censors would have to be stationed in cable offices and the licences for most long-distance radio transmitters revoked. The question of censoring mail, freight and material carried by travellers could be left to be decided at the time.

These are among the conclusions of a study group under the chairmanship of General Sir Hugh Beach, former Master-General of the Ordnance.

Th group has spent most of this year trying to reconcile in time of conflict the demands of military security with those of the democratic right to have as much information as possible in an environment in which advanced electronics are making it increasingly difficult technically to control the dissemination of news.

The group, whose report, *The Protection of Military Information*, was published yesterday was set up in February by

General Sir Hugh Beach (left) and Mr Heseltine: Balancing wartime security against the right to know

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, after widespread dissatisfaction in the media with the system of vetting reporters' copy during the Falklands conflict last year.

The committee considered the demands of both big and limited conventional wars, but specifically excluded a nuclear conflict.

Arguing in favour of a system of censorship in time of war, it says: "The protection of information which, if it reached the enemy might hinder the efficient prosecution of operations, but lives at risk and ultimately prejudice the defence of the realm then becomes of vital importance." At such times "the onus must rest on government to determine what information needs to be protected.

"Censorship should seek only to prevent the untimely disclosure of information which would prejudice our own or allied operations and assist the enemy..... It should not be used politically as a fig-leaf to hide incompetence, poor judgment, tactical errors or indeed enemy successes."

It says the implications of the move to automation in communications systems have been serious for the protection of military information. "During the Second World War because of the manual nature of the system all telephone calls to and from the United Kingdom could be monitored... today elaborate arrangements would need to be made if such traffic were to be controlled... the number of censors would need to be very high indeed."

As much news as possible, whether good or bad, should reach the people, though there would be occasions when a government might seek to delay news of a defeat. Deliberate dissemination of false information through the media should be eschewed, and deception should form no part of any censorship system.

the report recommends a system of "discretionary censorship" closely related to that used during the Second World War, and says that provided the system "were enlightened, fair and efficient we believe that most journalists would accept censorship."

Such a voluntary system would be based on extensive guidance to editors of what types of material should not be published, and should be underpinned by a regulation making it an offence for any person to obtain or pass on information of use to the enemy.

It recommends that in a serious war the Home Secretary should be given powers to suspend publications which systematically fomented opposition to the successful prosecution of the war or which systematically published information that was directly damaging to the war effort.

For widespread wars it recommends the establishment of a censorship organization based in the United Kingdom to which editors could refer, together with one in the field to monitor war correspondents' copy. For further localized conflicts, such as that in the Falklands, the committee rejects the idea of having a formal censorship system at home.

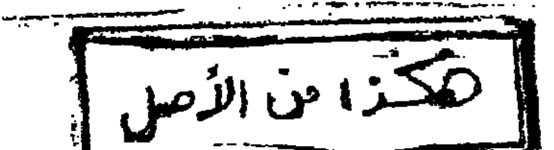
It specifically rejects the system which operated during the Falklands conflict in which correspondents' reports were vetted before despatch from the South Atlantic and again by the Ministry of Defence in London.

Other points made are:

The media in general, and television in particular, should refrain from showing close-up pictures of untreated casualties, and should delay identifying casualties until the next of kin could be informed.

The Protection of Military Information: Report of the Study Group on Censorship, Command No 9112, Stationery Office, £6.40.

leading article, page 5



Guardian is told to surrender cruise missiles document

The Guardian was ordered by a High Court judge in London yesterday to hand over a secret memorandum that could lead to the unmasking of a "mole" in the Government service. The surrender, however, is to be delayed until tonight to allow the newspaper time to appeal.

Judgment in the appeal is expected today: *The Guardian* assured the High Court, however, that it would obey the courts' final order.

Mr Justice Scott rejected arguments by the newspaper's lawyer, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, that it was entitled to protect anonynmous source under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

The memorandum, about the delivery of cruise missiles to Greenham Common, was published by the newspaper on October 31.

Nr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, asked for the document back unmutilated so that they could identify the source from markings on it.

The judge said that the newspaper did not contest that the Secretary of State and the Attorney General were the rightful owners of the document. It was also accepted that no damage will be, or has been, suffered by its publication.

The newspaper claimed that under the Contempt Act it would have to reveal its source only if it was in the interests of justice, national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime. It claimed that none of those conditions applied.

But the judge said that the Act could not be used to limit the right of an owner to recover property.

Mr Simon Brown, for the Secretary of Sate and the Attorney General had argued that there was a matter of national security at stake because the leak showed that someone in a high place in the Government service was untrustworthy. He said that "national security required that he be identified and got rid of" the judge said.

It had also been argued that other Governments might be reluctant to share information with Britain until the source was identified, but the judge said he did not think it was self-evident that other Governments might react as described.

The judge said it was a case where "injustice" might be done if he refused to grant the order. Further, if he was wring on his interpretation of the Contempt Act there would be an arguable case to be tried on the question of security.

In ordering that the document should be handed over he also ordered the newspaper to pay the costs of the hearing.

Law Report, page 9



Marek Zwiefka-Sibley and Emma Lesiecka in London yesterday holding some of the 15,000 cards being sent to Polish refugee children in Austria (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Herring quotas agreement rescues Europe's common fisheries policy

From Ian Murray, Brussels

"Blue Europe" is now complete. Fisheries ministers in Brussels have eventually sorted out a six-month wrangle over North Sea herring quotas, which means that the common fisheries policy, signed last January, can at last be made fully operational.

Mr Michael Jopling, the British minister, emerged extremely happy from the meeting when it ended in the middle of Wednesday night. The agreement, he said, was "a triumph for British fishermen". They had been allocated more herring than he had ever hoped for.

The agreement means that next year Britain is to be allowed to catch 24.15 per cent of the 155,000 tonnes of herring which scientific advice suggests would be the proper level to preserve stocks.

Mr Jopling pointed out that over the 16 years up to 1976, when herring fishing had to be banned to save it from extinction in the North Sea, Britain had averaged only 16.7 per cent of total catches.

The final agreement became possible because the conservation measures imposed in 1976 had been so successful. When the ban was lifted earlier this year the allowable quota was set at just 84,300 tonnes.

Next year the figure is nearly twice as high, and it is hoped that, by careful controls to prevent overfishing, it will be possible to increase the total to more than a quarter of a million tonnes before long.

It was the prospect of more fish in the future which eventually persuaded Holland and Denmark to accept the herring quotas. According to the agreement, Denmark is given a progressively larger and larger share of the available fish.

At the 250,000 tonne mark – which is considered to be the upper limit at which the fish can be sold for consumption – the Danish share would rise from its present 21.15 per cent level to 35 per cent. The extra Danish fish would be to keep Denmark's fishmeal industuy supplied.

Agreement on herring quotas is to last for 20 years, like the rest of the common fisheries policy. But falling stocks of cod and haddock, which make up 50 per cent of Britain's catch, mean that the industry could face a tough time next year.

The Commission wants to reduce the quotas for North Sea haddock by 18 per cent and the quotas for cod by 7 per cent next year. This would cost British fishermen something like £15m over the year.

HERRING CATCH PERCENTAGES

	155,000 tonne quota	Up to 250,000	Over 250,000
W Germ	13.3	15	17.5
France	13.8	12	8.5
Holland	27.6	27	21.5
Belgium	(7,100 tonnes	(6,000 tonnes+1	1
Britain	24.15	23	17.5
Denmark	21.15	22	35

Belgium is assured a minimum tonnage until stocks rise to above the 250,000 mark, when it would receive 1 per cent.

Singapore leaves few Stones unturned

From David Watts
Singapore

While the rest of the world worries about unemployment and nuclear missiles, Singapore is concerned about the Rolling Stones and chewing-gum.

The Government has banned the latest Stones album and is thinking of doing the same to chewing-gum. Neither is likely to cause great cultural deprivation – the album is already seeping in on the black market anyway.

However, officials of the Goethe Institute are still gasping at what the men from the ministry did to films brought in for a German film festival.

A film of Günter Grass's *The Tin Drum* was so mangled by the time the Ministry of Culture censors had finished that it had to be thrown away.

Though the films were to be shown to a restricted audience, they had to be censored under Singapore law. But what appalled Goethe Institute officials was that, instead of consulting about cuts, the ministry went ahead and made them, ruining one of the few copies of the film.

Some eighteen months ago Singapore appeared to be easing restrictions on avant-garde foreign films and leaving in risque scenes where cuts would ruin the integrity of a production. Clearly, there has been a rethink, or ministry bureaucrats are unaware of any more liberal attitude.

It was a customs man who first spotted the offending Stones album, Undercover, with its picture of a naked woman. Soon a letter was on its way from the Controller of Undesirable Publications, pointing out that the cover was unsuitable for the Singapore market and saying distribution would not be permitted.

The distributors, anticipating this, have tried to persuade the Stones to use a less controversial cover for the local market, but to no avail.

No doubt chewing-gum will be smuggled in too, despite a television ban on gum advertising, due in March.

"Personally I consider it rather obnoxious seeing very good-looking young boys and girls wandering around with their jaws moving like cows chewing their cud," Mr Suppiah Dhanabalan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Culture, said.

"From being a country that has become associated with cutting the long hair of men, we'll become associated with the banning of chewing-gum, which isn't something I'm particularly concerned about", said the minister, who claimed that Singapore spends more than £20,000 a year cleaning up the mess left by gum chewers.

Singapore has long since disproved the notion that it is a "little dragon", an offshore representative office of Peking in a predominantly Malay-stock area.

But if the political and economic comparisons do not apply, some of the cultural ones do: just as Peking is cleansing the country of foreign cultural pollution, so Singapore is strengthening its defences against undesirable extraneous foreign culture.

Christians get Peking protection

From Christopher Wren
(New York Times)
Peking

Dr Robert Runcie, said here that Chinese Christians are enjoying greater safeguards in trying to build a church, but he stopped short of suggesting they have achieved religious freedom.

The Primate, who is about to end a two-week visit to China, told a press conference on Wednesday that his hosts had shown him recent legislation that protected Christians from the persecution they suffered during the Cultural Revolution.

"From this I take it that the official political line is one of broadening through the constitution and the criminal code the possibilities of free religious practice", Runcie said.

It was too early, he said in reply to a question, to tell whether full religious freedom existed. "Certainly I have seen evidence that there are more churches opened, more Bibles available, and I can only assume that is the result of less political pressure against such things."

Mitterrand visit to back Belgrade

From Dessa Trevisan, Belgrade

President Mitterrand began a three-day visit to Yugoslavia yesterday. The aim of the trip, apart from reinforcing trade, economical and political ties, is to demonstrate France's support for Yugoslavia in its non-aligned role between east and west.

M. Mitterrand is accompanied by M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, and three ministers in charge of foreign trade, finance and transport.

Yugoslavia is going through serious economic difficulties and is counting on financial support. Last year France joined other Western countries and the International Monetary Fund in providing a package of financial assistance which eased the burden of debt repayments.

Yugoslavia has succeeded in increasing its exports to countries with convertible currencies and in reducing drastically its balance of payments deficit. Next year it is counting on further financial backing

The Yugoslav Government will also raise with President Mitterrand its wish to increase its exports to the European Community.

Pensive President: M Mitterrand, in a study by Konrad Muller, a West German photographer, in the garden of his house at Latche, south-west France.

Children want Marcos to quit

Manila – About 2,000 children yesterday marched through the business district here, demanding the resignation of President Marcos (Keith Dalton writes).

Miss Kristina Aquino aged 12 the daughter of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino, led the children. "The only Christmas present I want is for President Marcos to resign," she said.

Aid groups worried by police Bill

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Voluntary bodies added yesterday to growing concern that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill would allow confidential records and documents to be seized, despite Government undertakings.

The Law Society has already criticized loopholes leaving private legal, medical and journalistic material open to search and seizure.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations has now urged Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, to revise the Bill at committee stage.

The council has written on behalf of a wide range of voluntary bodies worried that loopholes and ambiguities will give police access to the files.

Faced with that threat, the organizations say they will have to make a "harsh" choice. They could cease recording clients' personal details or withdraw guarantees that such information would be held in confidence.

Mr Nicholas Hinton, its director, says in the letter: "NCVO and a number of other voluntary organizations would prefer to see a simpler procedure, giving clearer protection to the records of voluntary organizations, whether held by paid staff or volunteers."

Alternatively, the council would like amendments to the Bill extending the scope of excluded material and protecting it from seizure.

The standing committee on the Bill yesterday approved Clause 4, which regulates police powers to mount road checks.

The Reyn-Bardt case

Why an ancient skull trapped a killer

The woman's skull which led to Peter Reyn-Bardt's confession to the killing of his wife was so well preserved by the Cheshire peat bog in which it had lain for more than 1,500 years that it still contained parts of the brain, hair and ligaments when it was found earlier this year.

Indeed, it was only when the remains were sent to the radio-carbon dating laboratory at Oxford University that the police discovered that it could not have belonged to Reyn-Bardt's wife, Marika, who died in June, 1960.

Because the skull was so well preserved and the structure of the nose matched that in a photograph of the missing wife, the pathologist who first examined it was convinced that it came from Marika.

The skull was found in May by a workman excavating peat for a Somerset mushroom farm about 300 yards from Heathfield Cottage in Wilmslow where Reyn-Bardt killed his wife, probably during an argument over money. When the police were brought in they sent a team of investigators to the mushroom farm to sift through the rest of the peat for further remains.

But the only other item found in that and other searches of the land surrounding Heathfield Cottage was a two-inch long iron pin which could have come from the hair of the skull or a leather working awl. Experts are unsure whether the pin dates from Roman or Saxon times.

Confronted with the discovery of the skull, Reyn-Bardt, who had previously denied killing his wife, confessed and was taken to Heathfield Cottage to point out the exact spot where he had buried her remains. But when a further search proved fruitless, the police decided to send the skull for radio-carbon dating

The Oxford archaeological research laboratory was chosen because it has just developed a new £500,000 radio-carbon mass spectrometer which can date organic material to within a 140-year period.

Tests, which were completed in October, showed that the skull had belonged to a woman aged between 30 and 50 who had died in about AD410 during the final years of the Roman occupation of Britain.

According to Dr John Gowlett, senior archaeologist at the Oxford radio-carbon unit, the remains of severed heads of women from the Dark Ages have been found in peat bogs in various parts of northern Europe, particularly Denmark and Ireland.

In 1824 a similar skull was found in Lancashire. Another was found in Cumbria, also during the nineteenth century when peat was dug by hand.

Archeologists believe that the heads, always of women, were buried either as part of some ritual or because they were guilty of some heinous crime.

After dating the skull, Dr Gowlett visited the spot where it was found and discovered that the ground was still very wet. Other research into local documents disclosed that a wooden track had run across the bog in ancient times.

How to spot that short measure

By Tony Samstag

More than half of public houses may be serving short measures of spirits, a survey of hotels and bars in Merseyside has shown. Trading standards officers bought about 60 drinks and found that more than 35 of them were short-measured.

Although Merseyside County Council prosecuted 12 licensees, who were fined a total of more than £800, officers conceded that most of the violations were probably inadvertent.

Confusion generally arises with non-standard spirits, such as single malt whiskies, fine brandies and the like, which are not connected to Optic measures and therefore require the use of a thimble. Mr Peter Mawdsley, principal investigations officer for Merseyside, says bar staff are often not properly trained in use of the thimble. "The thimble measure should be filled to the top, and if there is any spillage it should fall into the glass. Customers should insist on seeing their drink poured."

The most celebrated short-measure case recently, in which the Savoy Hotel in London admitted selling a short measure of malt whisky in its American bar, also involved a waiter described in court as "a young, inexperienced chap".

Drinkers who want to check a measure should watch the bartender filling the thimble. It should be held absolutely level over the glass and filled to the brim. Even Optics can be fiddled by withdrawing the glass too quickly

Ice in the glass makes it almost impossible to guess whether the measure is accurate.

Christmas gift for Rock

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Coinciding with the first anniversary of Spain's partial relaxation of the frontier restrictions for Gibralter, residents of the Rock from yesterday will be allowed during the Christmas period to make as many trips as they wish to and from Spain in one day.

During the past 12 months the visits have been limited to one in any 24 hours.

Spain's 'right to education' Bill

Church and state battle over private schools

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A long running controversy over state-financed education came to a climax this week, as the Spanish Parliament debated the so-called "right to education" Bill introduced by the Minister of Education, Señor Jose Maria Maravall.

Doctrinaire socialism and militant Catholicism are struggling for influence, while many ordinary parents and taxpayers that only want the best education for their children that state funding can provide.

The minister, who holds an Oxford doctorate in sociology, under attack for choosing to send his own children to Madrid's fee-paying British Institute. Opponents of the Bill charge that he wants to deprive other parents of their right to chose a religious education for their children.

They do not stop short of accusing the Socialist minister of attempting to abolish Spain's Catholic Church-run education altogether.

Spain is remarkable for having more than one third of its primary and secondary education run privately. Most private schools are in the hands of the Catholic Church, but receive state subsidies of up to 100 per cent.

The Church built up this almost unique position during the Franco period. In Zaragozo, for example, there were only two state grammar schools and more than 50 private secondary schools at the time of the dictator's death in 1975.

A majority of Spain's Catholic bishops, believing they enjoy the firm support of the Pope, are anxious to maintain their sway over educating the young in a country where almost everyone is nominally a Catholic.

Señor Maravall's Bill would replace the education law of 1979, introduced by the Centre Democrats, which gave the Church generous funds for education with little supervision.

The minister hardly helped matters, however, when he addressed a Socialist teachers' congress last weekend and accused the entire private sector of being motivated only by the desire for economic gain.

Tomorrow the Catholic lay organizations are preparing their reply, urging millions of parents to demonstrate in the big cities and help to collect up to 10 million signatures for a petition against the Bill.

The right-wing Father Angel Suertes, chairman of the Federation of Private Education Establishments, who is locked in a power struggle with the Education Minister, claimed yesterday that the state had a constitutional obligation to finance his organization's schools regardless of the parliamentary debate.



Señor Maravall: Launched attack on church schools.

What most angers owners of the privately-run schools is that supervision by the state would be coupled with new school councils, on which parents and staff could easily out-vote the proprietors and the headmasters both on administrative matters and the curriculum.

Lebanon's President in London

Gemayel sounds warning about peace troops quitting too soon

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Hasty withdrawal of the multinational peace keeping force (MNF) from Beirut would have "very grave consequences" for the Middle East and for the world at large. President Gemayel of Lebanon said yesterday.

It would undermine the "promising" process reconciliation among his country's warring factions (which was begun at Geneva last month), he told a press conference in London. He was on an official visit, which ended yesterday.

President Gemayel hoped soon to announce the date and place for the next round of reconciliation talks, at which he would like to fix the terms of reference for a new "broadly-based government of national unity".

But he would not confirm reports that negotiations will resume in Montreux, Switzerland, next week. That would have to wait until after a meeting in Damascus on Sunday between the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

The meeting would also discuss the withdrawal of Mr Yassir Arafat and his Palestine Liberation Organization troops from Tripoli, he said.

At Geneva the parties had been impressed by how much they had in common. Now he wanted them all to work for the withdrawal of foreign "illegal" forces from his country – by which he meant those of Syria, Israel, Iran, Libya and the PLO.

But Lebanon's relations with Syria were "excellent". He hoped to visit Damascus as soon as President Assad's health had improved. "I wish him a prompt recovery." Mr Gemayel said, though he would not comment on the nature of the Syrian leader's illness.

President Gemayel was scathing about the "superficial understanding" behind a number of critical articles in the British press, one of which had questioned whether Lebanon was worth saving.

But he was full of praise and gratitude for those countries, including Britain, which had supplied contingents for the MNF.

"I know you would like some indication of how long it might be before the British contingent can return home. Indeed, if I knew that, there would be no need for their presence in Lebanon.

"It will be the responsibility of the new broadly based government to arrange with the countries concerned the withdrawal of the MNF after that of all other foreign forces. Lebanon is under a moral obligation to see that all those of our friends who have come to our aid, return home safe and untouched."

● STRASBOURG: It was vitally important to involve the Soviet Union in the search for peace in the Middle East, King Husain of Jordan told the European Parliament yesterday (Ian Murray writes).

The king, in Strasbourg to be awarded the Parliament's gold medal, called on Europe to highlight the need for a dialogue between the two superpowers to prevent the danger of new polarizations and a disastrous new eruption of violence in the Middle East.

The king was highly critical of the American position. He said Israel seemed to be encouraged in in its expansionist quest by American reluctance to remain true to the fundamental principle of international law that territory could not legally be taken by force.

The "so-called strategic and cooperation alliance" between the United States and Israel he regarded as being contrary to the spirit of President Reagan's own peace proposals and had allowed Israel to pursue its own expansionist policies.

"They have all but totally destroyed United States credibility and allowed the spectre of superpower polarization to loom menacingly over the area."

Journalists under US Marine fire

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

As if journalists did not have enough problems with the armed militias of Lebanon, an American television crew yesterday found itself under fire from US marines after its driver took a wrong turning into the marine compound at Beirut airport.

The driver was grazed in the head by a bullet and the reporter, Mr Joe Corcoran, from a National Broadcasting Company affiliate in North Carolina, was hurt by broken glass when the marine guards shot at their car.

It was a sign of just how nervous the Marines have become in Beirut – and just how dangerous the craft of journalism is becoming in the world's most dangerous city. The crew's car apparently resembled a vehicle which the Marines had been warned might be carrying a bomb, and the driver, a Lebanese, failed to stop when the Marines fired warning shots into the ground around the vehicle.

He made the cardinal error of trying to reverse in panic, at which the Marines shot to kill: and missed.

As Mr Robert Perry, the news director of WITN-TV put it bluntly, if a trifle ungenerously, afterwards: "We got a driver that apparently didn't know where he was going and almost got us killed. I think they (the Marines) were justified in doing what they did. They told him to halt and he didn't.

In fact, Marines had earlier given the driver incorrect instructions on how to enter the heavily guarded base

Shamir calms angry settlers

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah

Angry calls from Jewish settlers for harsher policies against Arab stone-throwers, including deportation and stiff minimum jail sentences, were yesterday rejected by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, making his first tour of the occupied West Bank as Prime Minister.

His remarks were seen as heralding a new era in which Israel will pursue the expansionist settlement policy inaugurated under Mr Menachem Begin, but without the shrill rhetoric, provocative statements and excessive security measures associated with Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister.

Speaking at Bracha, a controversial new outpost overlooking the Palestinian town of Nablus, Mr Shamir surprised his ultranationalist audience by saying that stone-throwing was only a secondary problem. He stressed that those who attacked Jews were a small section of the 800,000 West Bank Arab population.

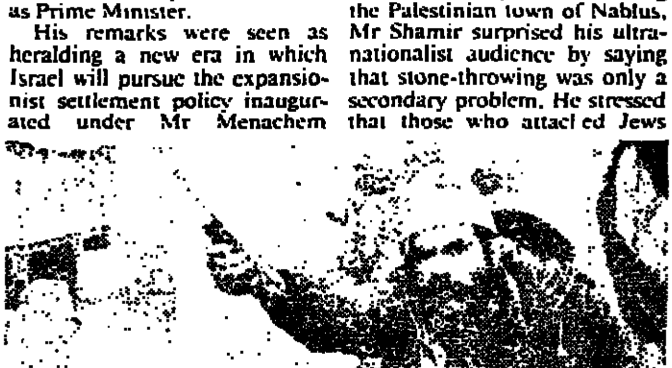
After listening to complaints from Jewish West Bank leaders – including a twice-repeated claim that the Jews were "dogs in Arab eyes" because of the lack of physical response to recent attacks – Mr Shamir delivered a considered reply which included a call for self-restraint.

"We belong to the same school of thought", he told the settlers. "But we absolutely must not get involved in settlers' violence. Those people who have been strong in what they have built must also be strong in self-control."

In answer to one question, Mr Shamir acknowledged that Israel was facing difficulties, but stressed that settlement remained the Government's top priority and should not be affected by spending cuts.

Ironically, Mr Shamir's pledge came on the day Israel formally submitted its request for $2,600m (£1,800m) for US aid for the fiscal year 1985.

Announced simultaneously in Jerusalem and Washington, it was divided into $1,400m in military aid and $1,200m in civilian assistance. It was accompanied by a declaration that Israel hopes to lower its standard of living by 10 per cent.



Knife protest: A Druze fighter reacts angrily to the Israeli evacuation of Christian militiamen from Deir el-Qamar.

EEC-Arab meeting ends in fiasco

Athens – An attempt to revive the dialogue between Arabs and West Europeans after a hiatus lasting five years, ended here in total fiasco when the delegates failed to agree on a joint communiqué (Mario Modiano writes).

Peter Brookes

DESPITE HIS AGE THIS ONE WILL RUN.... AND RUN!

REAGAN '84

I NEVER SAID NEVER AGAIN

RR

Doubts over future of Vienna talks

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Doubts over the future of the long-running East-West talks in Vienna on Mutual Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) persisted last night, after delagates broke up for Christmas without fixing a date for their resumption.

The Western side had proposed a return to the negotiating table on January 26, but the Warsaw Pact countries for once had not responded.

Mr Willem de Vos van Steenwijk of Holland, who acted as Nato spokesman, said the Western powers regretted the outcome.

The confusion was not unexpected, coming after extensive leaking in the West, where diplomats have tried to play down the significance of the Soviet-led action.

Soviet officials have themselves been at pains to indicate that a date for resumption is likely to be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

But Herr Andre Wieland, the East German Ambassador to the talks, said pointedly that the West's rejection of "all practical solutions" had raised the question of whether the negotiations could continue at all in their present form.

MBFR talks opened exactly 10 years ago with the objective of negotiating a reduction in the number of troops on either side in Central Europe. But they have been deadlocked for most of the time, moost recently over Warsaw Pact insistence that it has 150,000 fewer forces than Nato contends.

The Soviet Union walked out of the Geneva talks on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) last month, then refused to agree to a date for the resumption of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start).

●GENEVA: Neutral and non-aligned countries are determined to prevent the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures in Europe, opening on January 17, from becoming another arena for confrontation between the superpowers, the Yugoslav delegate, Professor Acimovic, said yesterday (Alan McGregor writes).

He was speaking after two days of talks which, he added, showed much common ground between representatives of Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Finland, Yugoslavia, Malta, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and San Marino.

●PARIS: A person "of very high rank in the Russian hierarchy" will make an official visit to Paris at the beginning of January, it was announced here yesterday (Diana Geddes writes). Observers believe that the main purpose of such a visit would be to discuss the Euromissile crisis

Prosecutor seeks 7 years for nanny

Livorno (Reuter) – The prosecution in the trial of Carol Compton, the Scottish nanny, called yesterday for a seven-year prison sentence for arson and attempted murder.

In his two-hour summing-up speech, the prosecutor, Signor Arturo Cindolo, told the bench of two professional and six lay judges that they should not convict the 21-year-old girl of arson alone.

Miss Compton is standing trial for crimes the prosecution says she committed while working for two Italian families in 1982. She denies the charges, which claim that one of the five fires she is alleged to have lit was meant to kill a three-year-old child in her care.

Speaking on the fourth day of the trial, Signor Cindolo said he could offer little explanation for the crimes, although he repeated suggestions that Miss Compton might have lit the fires so that she could return to her boyfriend in Rome.

Earlier in the day the court heard evidence from two psychiatrists who said they found Miss Compton to be fundamentally sane, although with some mental abnormalities.

Signor Cindolo bitterly criticized the way much of the case had been conducted. Referring to allegations of bizarre events in the houses where Miss Compton worked, he said: "We have talked more fully about falling vases than about the baby she is accused of murdering."

He also attacked the British press who, he said, had talked of witches and then said "we were to try her for witchcraft. We are here to judge calmly and logically ... something which is logical for us must be so for the whole world."

Going through what he said were inconsistencies and contradictions in Miss Compton's story, he said she was the only person who could have started the fires.

But he added: "I can't bring you witnesses, there aren't any. Nobody can say 'I saw Compton start the fire'."

The two psychiatric witnesses rejected suggestions in court that Miss Compton might have faked poltergeist activity to disguise pyromania.

Three judges indicted

Chicago (AP) – Three present and former Cook County circuit judges and seven other men have been indicted here after a three-year undercover investigation of corruption in America's largest court system.

Those indicted were judges Wayne Olson and John Murphy, and former Judge John Devine, a Chicago policeman, four attorneys, a deputy court clerk and a private individual.

The indictments alleged bribes or demands for pay-offs ranging from $30 (£21) to $30,000. The cases ranged from relatively minor offences, such as traffic tickets, to drug cases and such matters as divorces and trust funds.

Bomb hits S African ministry

Johannesburg (AFP, AP) – At least seven people were hurt when two bombs exploded yesterday in two buildings in central Johannesburg, the South African news agency Sapa reported.

One of the devices apparently went off in an office of the Foreign Ministry, on the fourth floor of a building opposite Johannesburg City Hall. Police cordoned off glass-littered streets around the 11-storey building and an office block next door which was also damaged.

Poll boycott

Kingston, (AP) – Jamaicans yesterday went through the motions of a national election, but with only six contituencies being contested out of 60, the ruling party of Mr Edward Seaga is assured of remaining in power. The main opposition party boycotted the poll.

Fatal defoliant

Belém, Brazil (AFP). – Forty-two people have died from a defoliant use by a private electrification firm, Senhor Joad Batista Bastos, Agriculture Minister of state of Pará, said here. The defoliant was use to cut a swathe through the Amazonian jungle to build a 500-mile power line.

Tutu praised

Durban (AP) – A mercy plea by Bishop Desmond Tutu saved the lives of four white mercenaries sentenced to be hanged for a bungled coup attempt in the Seychelles, Martin Dolinchek, a mercenary freed from a long jail sentence, said here. He praised the bishop as a "committed Christian".

Star's son fined

Paris (AP) – Paul Belmondo, aged 20, the car-racing son of Jean-Paul Belmondo, the film actor, was given a one-month suspended prison sentence and fined about £400 for assaulting a photographer who attempted to take his picture with Princess Stephanie of Monaco.

Bomber appeals

Rangoon (AP) – Captain Kang Min Chul, of North Korea, sentenced to death last week for his role in the bombing which killed 21 persons, including four South Korean Cabinet members here in October, is to appeal. Major Zin Mo, also sentenced to death, did not appeal.

Player cleared

Stockholm (AP) – Uyacheslav Bykov, a Soviet ice-hockey player accused of shoplifting in a department store, was aquitted by a court here.

Climber killed

Katmandu (AP) – A 37-year-old technician from Warsaw was killed instantly after falling 230ft during an assault on Mont Manaslu in northwest Nepal.

Costly review

Düsseldorf (AP) – A West German court has ordered a food critic to pay damages to a restaurant owner who was forced to close after a review that compared one of his entrees to "shoe leather and coal." The amount will be decided later.

Clashes on French press Bill

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A debate began in the French Parliament last night on the Government's highly controversial Bill on press monopolies. This is aimed officially at limiting th size of press conglomerates and unofficially at breaking the back of the right-wing Hersant press empire.

The previous night an Opposition censure motion accusing the Government of attacking the fundamental right of freedom of information was overwhelmingly defeated by 247 votes to 158, but only after heated exchanges which at one stage prompted the Prime Minister to walk out, followed by the Socialist and Communist MPs.

The Bill seeks to prohibit any one man or group from: owning more than three national papers whose combined circulation must not exceed 15 per cent of total national newspaper sales; owning both a national daily paper and a provincial daily paper; and owning provincial dailies (of unlimited number) whose combined circulation exceeds 15 per cent of total provincial daily sales.

In addition, it stipulates that the name of the person who owns or controls a newspaper must in future be published in each issue of that paper, together with the titles of any other papers within the same ownership, the name of the editor and the size of the paper's circulation.

M Robert Hersant, owner of the leading right-wing daily, Le Figaro, falls foul of the proposed law in two ways. He owns three national papers whose combined sales amount to 40 per cent of the total, and 14 provincial dailies, whose sales are within the proposed limit, as well as some 18 other publications.

He would therefore either have to sell all his national titles and keep his provincial papers, or sell all his provincial papers and in addition one or two of his national papers so as to bring his national circulation within the 15 per cent limit. There is no circulation limit for a single paper.

M Hersant, who is used to fighting battles, claims and indeed acts as if he is not worried.

One source of comfort to M Hersant is his conviction that the provisions of the Bill will not be able to be enforced until 1986, by which time he believes that France will have voted a right-wing majority back into Parliament.

Washington mission by Trudeau

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, after touring the world in the past two months with his nuclear disarmament proposals, yesterday brought his peace initiative to President Reagan here.

Mr Trudeau hopes that his campaign will eventually produce a meeting of five nuclear weapons powers – the US, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China – aimed at reducting nuclear tension, and bringing about nuclear non-proliferation and better crisis management. Reagan Administration officials have been lukewarm to such a five-power meeting at this stage.

Mr Trudeau has discussed his proposals in several West European capitals, as well as in Tokyo, Peking and at the recent Commonwealth summit in Delhi. He hopes to visit Moscow for similar consultations at a date yet to be fixed.

His proposals include a ban on "star wars", anti-satellite systems and clamping a lid on the current angry East-West rhetoric.

Atom tests damage not proved

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Studies on Australians who took part in British atomic tests on Monte Bello Island and at Maralinga in the 1950s and 1960s have concluded that there is no evidence to suggest the tests had adverse effects

The studies, tabled in the Senate yesterday, were carried out by the Federal Department of Health and looked at the health of more than 9,000 people.

Dr Neal Blewett, the Minister for Health, said he had long recognized the concern of many former participants in the tests about the possible long-term effects of exposure to radiation. However, these latest studies confirmed that it was not possible to demonstrate that exposure to radiation had had significant adverse effects.

In February, Mr Doug Rickard, a member of the health physics team at Maralinga from 1957 to 1959, suggested that radiation readings taken from people involved in the British tests had been faked.

Walesa to lay wreath

Gdansk, (Reuter) – Mr Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's banned Solidarity trade union, said yesterday that he would lay flowers today at a monument to shipyard workers killed by police, as union supporters prepared for a day of anti-government protest.

Underground Solidarity spokesmen have urged Poles to demonstrate peacefully in Warsaw and other cities to mark the thirteenth anniversary of the killings during food riots in Gdansk in 1970.

Solidarity hopes, page 14

Educated men rule, but academic chaos reigns

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

The newly installed government of Mr Turgut Ozal is, educationally, one of the most impressive in Turkey's history, including 11 engineers, three financial experts, two doctors of medicine, a jurist and an economist. Most have degrees from Western universities.

However, the background of this comparatively young team contrasts sharply with the state of the universities, reduced to a shambles by controversial "reform" and ensuing purges by the former military regime.

In an attempt to end what was seen as intellectual support for the political terrorism which racked the country in the pre-coup years, the universities were brought under state control through the creation, two years ago, of a higher education board.

Of its 25 members, eight were appointed by the president, one by the chief of the general staff, six by the Council of Ministers and two by the Ministry of Education, leaving only eight members for the universities to elect themselves.

Mandated to impose stern discipline on the then-autonomous higher education institutions and substitute a "national" culture for "harmful foreign ideologies", the board started a series of purges which put an abrupt end to the careers of many liberal academics and those suspected of being Marxists.

Many others resigned in protest at this attack on academic freedom, or quit to avoid the consequences of dismissal ordered by the martial law authorities which entailed disqualification for life from any further government service.

A dismissed assistant professor from the faculty of political sciences at Ankara university one of the most elite institutions, until recently regarded as an "incubator" for trained bureaucrats for government service, told The Times that the teaching staff of 162 was almost halved in two years after the establishment of the board, despite an approximate 40 per cent increase in the number of students.

Professor Ihsan Dogramici, the president of the board, remains confident that the "reform" he has masterminded will prove to be of benefit to the universities in the long run and refuses to admit any serious after-effects of the purges. He says that those dismissed constitute an insignificant number of the total teaching staff. But he was forced to attempt, with poor results so far, to recruit academics from abroad, particularly Britain.

Academic cirles remain pessimistic about the prospects of a liberalization of the measures in the near future, even by the government of Mr Ozal, whose election manifesto had backed multi-party democracy, along with moderation

Indeed, in an interview earlier this month, the victor of the poll was quoted as being careful not to commit himself to a revision of the higher education policies, noting that the new regulations enjoyed constitutional sanctity.

Alfonsin begins military purge by naming four new chiefs of staff

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin has named four new chiefs of staff of the armed forces, in the first step towards what he promised would be a "substantial and profound" reform of Argentina's military structure.

The Defence Minister Seõr Borras, announced the appointments on Wednesday night, just 24 hours after President Alfonsin ordered the trial of nine former military junta members on charges of murder, torture, and illegal deprivation of liberty, in connection with human rights abuses.

General Julio Fernández Torres a career infantry officer who once disobeyed orders from former President Galtieri during the Falklands war, is to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This is Argentin'a top-ranking military post, president Aflonsin eliminated the rank of commander-in-chief in all three services on the grond that the constitution empowers the President to be commander-in-chief of all military forces.

General Jorge Arguindeguy, an officer with a reputation of being non-political, was named Chief of Staff of the Army Rear-Admiral Ramón Arosa was designated Chief of Staff of the Navey, and Brigadier Teodoro Waldner will occupy the same post in the Air Force.

President Alfonšon's choices imply a virtual purge of the existing military leadership, as the promotion of younger officers will automatically force 29 generals into retirement from the Army 17 admirals from the Navy and two brigadiers from the Air Force.

The new Government has pledged to rid the armed forces of officers with political ambitions and to place the military under firm civilian control which may turn out to be the most difficult tasl facing Seõr Alfonsin.

Besides their long history of invention in Government, Argentina's armed forces greatly increased their economic and political power during the last seven years of military rule. The armed forces are also widely believed to have become corrupt and to be responsible for numerous atrocities during their campaign against left-wing terrorism in the mid-1970's.

Presindent Alfonsin has promised that those officers responsible for human rights violations will be brought to justice, and that he will transfrom the services into "strong, effective armed forces that will play their proper role within the constitution.".

General Fernández Torres, the centerpiece of the Government's military reforms, reportedly refused to obey an order from General Galtieri to launch a parachute attack on Goose Green during last years war on the ground that it would inflict unacceptably high casualties on the Argentine troops.

Finance and industry, page 17



Nun killed: Sister Joan Sawyer from Belfast (in white, back), a Columbian Order nun, who was killed in a shoot-out in Lima, Peru, after being taken hostage, with three other nuns, by 18 escaped convicts. She was a social worker with slum-dwellers, pictured with her. Four convicts also died in the gun battle with police.

Meese's remarks hard to swallow

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

Mr Edwin Meese, the White House Counsellor, has the pink, rounded countenance of someone who likes to eat well, which perhaps partly explains why a remark he made about hunger in Americahas created such a political storm.

In a recent interview, Mr Meese said he had never seen authoritative figures that there were any hungry children in the US. He also said he had "considerable information that people go to soup kitchens because the food is free" and "that's easier than paying for it".

His remarks naturally produced a storm in a soup bowl. Democratic Congressmen and welfare organizations have excoriated him for his lack of sensitivity to the needs of the hungry, arguing that their numbers have increased sharply as a result of Reagan Administration cutbacks in social programmes.

According to the Congressional budget office, food stamp spending will be down by $7,000m (£4,700m) between fiscal 1982 and fiscal 1985 as a result of Reagan cuts, while spending for child nutrition programmes will be down by $5,300m.

Mr Thomas O'Neill, the House Speaker and an outspoken critic, pointedly noted that the Administration was still refusing to release $44m which Congress has approved to finance the distribution of surplus foodstuffs to the needy.

Mr Meese: A storm in a soup bowl.

Like Mr Meese, Mr O'Neill's own bulky physique suggests that he is not exactly on the breadline. But having grown up in one of the poorest cities in America – Boston – he knows what it is like to be hungry.

President Reagan has leapt to Mr Meese's (and his Administration's) defence, charging that his councellor's remarks were taken out of context and expressing his determination to eliminate hunger in America.

"If there is one person hungry in this country, that is one too many," he said, adding that his Administration was doing more to alleviate hunger than any previous one. The President' defence of Mr Meese was not only a show of loyalty to a trusted aide but was also intended to prevent Democrats from making too much political mileaga from his hunger remarks.

New opinion polls show that a majority of Americans believes the Administration's cutbacks in social programmes have created hardship for many people.

Democratic contenders have already made it clear the "fairness issue" will be one of their main lines of attack on the President's record. Remarks like Mr Meese's merely help create an impression that Republicans believe soup is the first course of a five-course meal, rather than sustenance for many thousands of hungry Americans.

President Siles: Plagued by political infighting.

Cabinet quits in Bolivia

La Paz (Reuter) – The Bolivian Cabinet has resigned, after a 48-hour general strike paralysed the economy.

The Foreign Minister, Señor José Ortiz Mercado, told a press conference that the move was intended to allow the formation of a government of national unity and establish a political and economic truce.

In their letter of resignation to President Hernán Siles Zuazo on Wednesday night, the 18 ministers accused the opposition-dominated Senate of planning a "constitutional coup" against the left-wing Government.

They resigned after a stormy debate in the upper house, where centrist and right-wing senators called on the Government to justify severe austerity measures adopted last month, including a 60 per cent devaluation, which led to a 24-hour general strike on November 21 and this week's 48-hour stoppage.

The opposition accused the Government of violating the constitution and encroaching on the prerogatives of Parliament

President Siles's administration, plagued by infighting and social unrest since coming to power more than a year ago, had earlier offered to reopen talks with Bolivia's main trade union to avert further strikes

King has last laugh in Malaysia crisis

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lump r

Malaysia's four-and-half-month constitutional deadlock has ended as abruptly as it began. But the acting King, in signing the controversial amendments into law, yesterday had the last laugh.

Besides getting a written undertaking from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister, for a special parliamentary session next month to incorporate the ruler's objections into the constitution, he placed him on the defensive.

The constitutional amendments, passed last August, had 23 provisions, which apart from the contentious provisions the rulers objected to, also included the new parliamentary and state boundaries.

If these changes were not gazetted into law by Thursday the boundaries could not be altered for another eight years. Considerable political problems would then have been brought to bear upon the Prime Minister from his own supporters.

The rulers objected to the provisions that transferred the authority to impose an emergency from the King to the Prime Minister, the extension of some of these provisions to the states, and the automatic assent into law of any Bill that the King did not sign within 15 days of it being presented to him.

The special parliamentary session would be held before January 11, when Datuk Seri Mahathir goes to the United States on an official visit.

There are indications that the original amendments were ill conceived and followed a fear by Dr Mahathir that the next King – probably the Sultan of Perak of Johore – would be as independent in Kuala Lumpur as they are in the states. Malaysia's King is elected every five years from among the nine hereditary rulers.

Dr Mahathir, as part of the compromise, would ensure that the parliamentary session next month would restore the rulers' powers in the state, and give the power to impose the emergency back to the king.

If the King diagreed with a Bill, he could send it back to Parliament for further debate. If Parliament passed it again, this time with a two-thirds majority, it would become law within 30 days

Ironically, this could prove to be a delaying action that the Government may not like. Some sources speculated yesterday that the King could use this power to delay emergency Bills that the Government sometimes gets through Parliament in a day.

But these provisions are hypothetical at best. No King has refused to sign any Bill in the 26 years since independence.

The bigger political problem for Dr Mahathir is that in the runup to the crisis he had managed to split his United Malays National Organization.

Man against the state

Ex-MP fights to keep his land

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Undeterred by the threat that Greece might seize "Achmetaga", his 11,000-acre wooded estate on the island of Euboea, Mr Francis Noel-Baker, the former Labour MP for Swindon, is planning to develop it into a holiday resort.

Last weekend, he accompanied Mr John Blay, of Clydebank International, the British developers, for a survey of the area. "In the first phase", Mr Noel-Baker said, "we plan to build 50 holiday villas on non-forest land." Mr Blay said the intention was to start developing early in the spring.

By then, of course, the Greek Government will have made up its mind whether it will declare invalid the Noel-Baker titles to this land which are said to date back to 1832.

"Achmetaga" was named after the Turkish landowner who sold it for 10,000 gold sovereigns to Edward Noel, the present owner's great-grandfather, when Greece regained its independence.

A ruling of the Supreme Forestry Commission last month challenged the validity of the Noel-Baker title on the ground that the Turkish title-deed surrendered usufruct, not ownership.

Mr Moschos Gikonoglou, the Greek Under-Secretary of Agriculture, who must accept or reject the commission's recommendation, said: "We have nothing against Mr Noel-Baker. We referred to the commission 122 similar cases of contested titles of private forests. We could hardly have exempted him."

Mr Noel-Baker believes the Government established this new procedure in an attempt to take over his estate without paying adequate compensation required by the constitution. He said he would fight his case in the Greek courts.

Greek officials claimed that in earlier negotiations Mr Noel-Baker had revoked an offer to give the 10,700 acres of fir and pine forest to the state, if it let him keep his house, 50 acers of farm land, and exempted him from all arrears of taxes and fine. The Government had responded favourably.

Mr Noel-Baker denies making such an offer. He said his tax liabilities stood at £43,000. "This is ridiculous. The sum is barely one-twentieth of the taxable value of the forest as calculated by the Greek Authorities.

"I am quite prepared to give them one-twentieth of the forest for that sum, provided they give it to the village," he told *The Times*.



Mr Noel-Baker: Accused of supporting the junta.

The action against Mr Noel-Baker was the culmination of an eight-year campaign against him on the ground that he supported the military junta which ruled Greece between 1967 and 1974. Trouble began in 1975 when a local "struggle committee" was set up in Prokopi, the village of "Achmetaga". It organized demonstrations, calling for the expulsion of the Noel-Bakers and the seizure of the estate.

In one incident, the crowds went on a rampage, burning estate buildings and desecrating family graves. Nr Noel-Baker dismissed the troubles as communist-inspired and denied he had collaborated with the junta on any but humanitarian grounds.

The then Conservative government, bending to popular pressure, challenged his land title and prohibited the exploitation of the forest or the farm, or their sale.

Mr Noel-Baker has appealed to the Greek courts against this ban, which, he maintains, is in violation of Community law against discrimination of nationals of other EEC countries.

Go-ahead for census in Germany

From Michael Binyon Bonn

A national census, planned for last April but cancelled after objections had been lodged with the Constitutional Court, can go ahead, the court decided yesterday. But important changes had first to be made to stop any misuse of the information collected.

The court ruling was welcomed by the Government, which had fought hard to hold the controversial census, insisting it was essential if proper provision was to be made for West Germany's falling population. The Ministry of the Interior, which has given a warning of serious strains on social services, education and medical care because of the changing demographic profile, has said its estimates of the population could be out by up to a million.

The court said the Government was fully entitled to hold a census, the first since 1970, but could not pass on the information to other authorities.

Objections had centred on fears that the computer-processed answers could be used by the police, landlords and credit companies, and that confidential data would not be destroyed after use.

The Social Democrats, who called for a postponement of the census in the spring, said the judgment was an important step in strenthening privacy. The Greens, however, who led the move to boycott the census – which the Government threatened to punish with fines of up to DM10,000 (£2,500) for anyone refusing to fill in the forms – are unlikely to be mollified.

The questions the census will pose include those on religious affiliation, earnings, employment, housing and education. The Ministry of the Interior reckoned that the abortive April census would have cost DM371m, and needed 500,000 enumerators.

No enumerators would have been allowed to enter anyone's home, or disclose the answers they were given. But in Bavaria at least they would have been given a reward of DM2.50 for each German and DM5 for each foreigner they reported to the police whom they suspected to be either an unregistered citizen or illegal immigrant.

Spy-purged CIA unable to fight world terror

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

The US needs to recruit more spies to help to combat the upsurge of terrorism in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world, according to Admiral James Watkins, the Chief of Naval Operations.

Calling for a national strategy for dealing with terrorism, the admiral bemoaned what he described as "the emasculation of the human aspects of our intelligence service". Due to the lack of agents in the field, the US had been largely unprepared for recent events in Iran, Nicaragua, Lebanon and Grenada.

Admiral Watkins was referring to the purges in the Central Intelligence Agency and other itelligence services after the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam war. It has only been since the Reagan Administration took office that an attempt has been made to rebuild up the CIA's resources again.

According to a senior Pentagon source, the intelligence operations of the United States have been cut back so severely that "we haven't got anyone in Nicaragua that I know of, [illegible] there is not even a respected wino on the pier at Corint (a port on Nicaragua's Pacific coast) to advise us on ship movements."

The admiral noted that terrorist groups were becoming better organized.

Knife attack on Tanaka's bitter rival

Nagaoka, Japan (Reuter) – A man brandishing a knife yesterday tried to stab Akiyuka Nosaka, the novelist campaigning against Mr Kakeui Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, in the general election, police said. Mr Nosaka, dubbed Japan's Don Quixote because he is running full tilt at corruption in high places and trying to topple the country's most powerful politician, was unhurt.

Police said the man, with a mountaineer's knife tried to stab Mr Nosaka as he campaigned for Sunday's election in a market place. The attacker was overwhelmed by Mr Nosaka's aides and handed over to police.

The author, who is 58, is standing as an independent against Mr Tanaka. Commentators have described him as a political kamikaze pilot.

Police said the assailant admitted to interrogators that he wanted to wound Mr Nosaka.

Elsewhere in Japan, campaigning was non-violent but noisy. A further selection of opinion polls showed Mr Yashuhiro Nakasone's pro-Western, conservative Government was likely to preserve a stable majority in the 511-seat House of Representatives.

Salvador troops to join next US manoeuvres

By Alan Tomlinson

The United States will hold a third round of troop manoeuvres in Central America next summer, according to military sources in Honduras.

The next exercises will involve fewer troops and there will be no "symbolic extravaganza" like last month's amphibious landings which were the centrepiece of the Big Pine 2 manoeuvres, the sources said.

Big Pine 3 will be characterized by its regional flavour. Troops from El Salvador and possibly Guatemala, will take part. Most of the 3,000 American soldiers in Honduras will have gone by March.

Meanwhile, Honduras is pressing for loans to spend another $400m (£270m) on military equipment over the next four to five years.

Killer goes to electric chair after nine years

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

John Eldon Smith, whose wife persuaded him to kill a married couple, was put to death in the electric chair in Georgia yesterday. It was Georgia's first execution in 19 years and the eleventh in the United States since capital punishment was restored seven years ago.

Mr. Smith, aged 53, was executed hours after the Supreme Court in Washington voted by six to three to reject a final appeal. He had been convicted nine years ago of killing his wife's former husband and the husband's new wife in an attempt to collect insurance money.

A fellow-inmate of Georgia's condemned cells, Alpha Stephens, was spared from the electric chair nine hours before his scheduled execution this week, after the supreme court voted by five to four to grant a stay. His lawyer, successfully raised the issue of racial discrimination in respect of the death penalty.

The question of race plays a considerable part in the long running controversy over capital punishment in America. It has been shown that a murderer is more likely to be sentenced to death if the victim is white rather than black. Mr Stephens is black, and had been convicted of killing a white man.

Abolitionists say that the carrying out of the death penalty is to some extent a lottery.

Offended Pertini gives back gift to Lévesque

From John Best, Ottawa

Incensed by some public comments made by Mr René Lévesque, the Premier of Quebec, last week, President Pertini of Italy has returned a gift Mr Lévesque recently gave him.

The diplomatic contrtemps originated when Mr Lévesque emerged from a private discussion with Signor Pertini in Rome last Friday, to tell reporters that the President did not have a "very high opinion" of Canada's federal Government.

He also said that Signor Pertini would make a point of by-passing the federal capital, Ottawa, if he visited Quebec next year, in connexion with the French-speaking province's 450th anniversary celebrations.

After Mr Lévesque's remarks had appeared in print, the Italian Embassy in Ottawa issued a terse statement, saying that the premier's comments "do not correspond to the opinions expressed by President Pertini and must therefore be considered distortion."

Yesterday, the External Affairs Department, confirmed that Mr Ghislan Hardy, the Canadian Ambassador in Rome had been asked by Signor Pertini to return an honorary document Mr Lévesque had given him, providing free admission to all of all of Quebec's 450th anniversary special events.

The President accused Mr Lévesque of "falsely, and perversely interpreting" remarks made by him in the course of their private conversation.

Chancery Division

Guardian ordered to return official document

Secretary of State for Defence and Another v Guardian Newspapers Ltd

Before Mr Justice Scott

[Judgment delivered December 15]

His Lordship ordered the return to the plaintiffs, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Attorney General, of a photostatic copy of a document supplied to the defendants, Guardian Newspapers Ltd, by some person or persons unknown. The document was a copy of a memorandum prepared by Mr Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, for the Prime Minister which *The Guardian* had published on October 31.

His Lordship held in the Chancery Division that section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 had no application and that Parliament did not intend thereby to interfere with the proprietary right of an owner of a document to have it returned to him.

Mr Simon D Brown for the Crown; Lord Rawlinson, QC and Mr Peter Prescott for Guardian Newspapers Ltd.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT said that on October 21, *The Guardian* received a document which they published in full on October 31, under the headline "Heseltine briefing to Thatcher of cruise timing". *The Guardian* did not know the identity of the person or persons who supplied it, nor how such person or persons obtained it.

It was a photostatic copy of a memorandum dated October 20, prepared by the secretary of state for the Prime Minister. Copies were sent to the office of the Prime Minister and to certain other departments, each copy being individually marked so as to identify it from the others. The markings had been partly obliterated, but might suffice to identify from which of the original copies it was made.

Obviously the original memorandum and the original copies were the property of the Crown. It could not be doubted that the photostat copy was supplied to *The Guardian* without any authority from the Crown. It was highly likely that the supply of the copy to *The Guardian* must have involved a breach of duty by some unidentified employee or officer within one or other of the Departments of State which received copies.

The Crown wished to identify the source of the leak and for that purpose was anxious to recover the document supplied to and still held by *The Guardian*, and asked for it to be returned, by a letter dated November 11. In their reply *The Guardian* offered to return the document, with the markings fully obliterated. That was not satisfactory to the Crown, and accordingly the Crown issued a writ and notice of motion on November 27.

The Guardian had behaved with complete responsibility in the matter. The publication of the document on October 31, followed careful consideration by the editor to the questions of public interest that publication might involve. He concluded that the document related to matters of legitimate public debate and that no damage to national security would be caused.

On demand for its delivery up, the editor considered it his duty to protect the anonymous supplier by declining to return it otherwise than after obliteration of the marks that might assist in identifying the source. He made it plain that pending the court's decision the marks would not be obliterated or the document defaced or mutilated.

Mr Simon Brown based his case on ownership of the document. Copyright in the original document was clearly vested in the secretary of state or in the Crown under sections 2, 4 and 39 of the Copyright Act 1956, and its unauthorized copying was an infringement of copyright and under section 18 (1) the copyright owner had the same rights to infringing copies as if he were the owner.

The court had been referred to the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act 1977 which had created a statutory tort of "wrongful interference with goods", which stood as a substitute for the previous torts of detinue, conversion and trespass to goods.

Section 3 of the 1977 Act provided that the relief was either (a) an order for delivery of the goods, and for payment of any consequential damages, or (b) an order for delivery, but giving the defendant the alternative of paying damages by reference to the value of the goods, together in either alternative with payment of any consequential damages, or (c) damages. By section 3 (3) relief could only be given under one head and head (a) was at the court's discretion.

Lord Rawlinson argued that the court should decline to excercise its discretion, on the ground that there was public interest in material and information concerning matters of current public debate being made available to the press; that the order for delivery up of the document might enable the source to be identified; that no overriding point of national security was raised, and that the remedy of delivery up ought to be declined.

The intrinsic value of the document held by *The Guardian* was nil, and no consequential damage capable of judicial recognition had been or would be suffered by retention of the document by *The Guardian*. To deny a remedy under head (a) would in effect deprive the Crown of a remedy at all.

It could not be a permissible exercise of the court's discretion to attach to an order for delivery up a condition that permitted *The Guardian* to deface the document by removing the identifying marks. The discretion was to order delivery of the goods – which must mean delivery up in their present state – or to refuse such an order and leave the Crown to a remedy in damages, a refusal of relief under head (a) would represent a misuse of the discretion and be an injustice to the plaintiffs.

Accordingly, his Lordship concluded that, subject to section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, the Crown was entitled to recover their property and delivery up of the document.

Under Order 29, rule 2 A (1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, an order for delivery could be made in interlocutory proceedings, but it would not be right to do so if there was a reasonably arguable defence, particularly where the goods were not in jeopardy pending trial. *Per contra*, if the defendants could show no reasonably arguable defence it would ordinarily be right to make an order for delivery at an interlocutory stage. *Manchester Corporation v Connolly* ([1970] Ch 420, 426).

The Guardian did not contest the Crown's ownership of the document, but based their defence of section 10 of the 1981 Act, which provided: "No court may require a person to disclose, nor is any person guilty of contempt of court for refusing to disclose, the source of information contained in a publication for which he is responsible, unless it be established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime".

Lord Rawlinson argued that the plaintiffs were seeking to obtain the document in order to identify the source of the leak, and that if they obtained it and were enabled to trace the leak, the defendants by handing over the document would have disclosed the source of the document. But – the argument proceeded – the section enjoined the court against making an order for such disclosure unless one or other of the conditions specified in the section was satisfied, and that none was here satisfied, so that no order should be made.

But in his Lordship's judgment the construction contended for was incorrect. The section enjoined the court from requiring a person to disclose the source of information; it was not directed and could not be applied to oust proprietary remedies to which an owner of property might under the law be entitled.

Lord Rawlinson's construction rewrote the opening sentence thus "No court may require any person to do anything which may lead to the disclosure of sources of information." His Lordship could see no good reason why he should so read the section.

It was not so phrased. Its provenance was, plainly enough, the litigation commenced by British Steel Corporation against Granada Television Ltd with a view to ascertaining who had leaked certain confidential information to the defendants in that case. The documents had been mutilated so that the identity of the informant could not be ascertained from the markings.

What was sought was that individuals should disclose by affidavit the source of the documents. No proprietary rights in the documents were in question. It was of interest to note that Lord Wilberforce assumed that British Steel ought to recover the documents: see *British Steel Corporation v Granada Television Ltd* ([1981] AC 1096, 1166).

That background to the 1981 Act provided no support for the view that Parliament intended by section 10 to interfere with the proprietary right of an owner of a document to have back his document.

Accordingly, in his Lordship's judgment, section 10 had no application to the present case and it followed that the defendants had no defence to the claim.

If his Lordship were wrong, *The Guardian* could only succeed if the court were satisfied disclosure was necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime. That provision was directed to the effect of disclosure, not to the effect of publication.

Lord Rawlinson had argued that the contents of the document, relating as it did to the tactics parliamentary and political that the Government should adopt in regard to the arrival in England of cruise missiles, was such that publication of it could not be said to have affected adversely national security. Mr Brown had accepted that point.

Mr Brown's national security point was otherwise based. He said, first, that there was someone in high places in government service who had leaked the document and that whether in this instance harm was done, it was a matter of national security that he be exposed so that his potential harm in the future was removed.

Second, it was said that leakage of documents regarding nuclear missiles undermined confidence in the sufficiency of the security arrangements of her Majesty's Government, and that other friendly governments might on that account be reluctant to share with us their secrets. Lord Rawlinson rejected both those points.

There was no need to go into his arguments in detail. Had section 10 applied it would not, in his Lordship's judgment, have been right to have concluded that the defendants had no arguable defence.

As to Mr Brown's first point there was no real evidence of the class of persons who had access to those documents, nor was it a necessary inference that because some individual was prepared, in breach of duty and reprehensibly, to leak a document of that character, national security required that he be identified and got rid of.

Second the reaction of other Governments to a leak of that sort ought to be a matter of evidence, tested by cross-examination. His Lordship did not regard it as self-evident that they might react in the manner described.

This was not a case where unless an order were made at an interlocutory stage grave inconvenience or injustice would result. Accordingly had it come to that his Lordship would have left the plaintiffs to make out their case on national security at trial.

The plaintiffs had subsidiary points on interests of justice and prevention of disorder or crime, but his Lordship did not find anything in the untested evidence which satisfied him that those requirements were made out to a standard of certainty that would justify a summary order at this stage.

The Crown was entitled to the order sought, but his Lordship granted a stay until Friday evening, to allow an appeal.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Lovell White & King.

Correction

The title of *R v Clerkenwell Green Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Ibrahim* (*The Times* December 7) should have been *R v Camberwell Green* etc.

Law Report December 16 1983

House of Lords

When non-strikers are directly interested in trade dispute

Presho v Department of Health and Social Security

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Roskill and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook

[Speeches delivered December 15]

Where groups of workers belonging to different unions were employed by the same employers at the same place of work and there was a trade dispute between the employers and one of the unions, those workers who belonged to other unions were "directly interested in the trade dispute" within the meaning of section 19 (1) of the Social Security Act 1975 if the outcome of the dispute would be automatically applied "across the board" as a result of a collective agreement or established industrial custom and practice at the place of work concerned.

The House of Lords so held when allowing an appeal by the Social Security Commissioner from the decision of the Court of Appeal (*The Times* May 3, 1983) who allowed an appeal by the claimant, Mrs Kathleen Presho, from the commissioner's dismissal of her appeal against the refusal of the local tribunal for Accrington and Rossendale to allow her claim for unemployment benefit from November 18 to 22, 1978.

Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr Stephen Aitchison for the Department of Health and Social Security; Mr Benet Hytner, QC and Mr John L. Hand for Mrs Presho.

LORD BRANDON said that the claimant was in November 1978 employed by Brooke Bond Oxo Ltd at its food factory at Great Harwood, Lancashire.

During or following a short period when she was laid off work in consequence of an industrial dispute in which she was not herself a participant, she applied for unemployment benefit. The insurance officer refused her claim on the ground that, in the circumstances, she was disqualified by the relevant legislation from receiving such benifit.

The material facts were set out in the commissioner's decision:

The claimant was at the material time employed as an instructor/machine operator, that is a production worker at the factory. She was a member of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW). Also employed at the factory were 57 maintenance engineers who were members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW).

That union put in a demand for the phase 1 and phase 2 increases (under the pay policy then in force) to be consolidated into their basic wages which demand would, if conceded, presumably represent a financial improvement for them, in that over-time rates calculated on basic rates would thereby be increased.

The management of the factory did not feel able to concede that demand. A work-to-rule was imposed by the maintenance engineers. As a result of an alleged refusal by two engineers to do a particular job and their subsequent suspension, work came to a standstill at the factory.

On November 20, 1978 all 417 production workers were laid off, as machines were not being repaired.

The stoppage of work ended on November 23, 1978, when work resumed in the factory, the terms of settlement being that pay negotiations would be brought forward to an earlier date in 1979 than had been originally contemplated.

Section 19 (1) of the Social Security Act 1975, before amendment, provided: "A person who has lost employment as an employed earner by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at his place of employment shall be disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit so long as the stoppage continues ... but this subsection does not apply in the case of a person who proves – *(a)* that he is not participating in or financing or directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work; and *(b)* that he does not belong to a grade or class of workers of which, immediately before the commencement of the stoppage, there were members employed at his place of employment any of whom are participating in or financing or directly interested in the dispute."

The result of the amendment of that provison by section 111 (1) of the Employment Protection Act 1975 was that an employee, who was laid off by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at his place of work employment was disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit unless he could prove (and the burden of proof was on him) two matters: first, that he was not participating, and, second, that he was not directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work.

In the present case it was common ground that the claimant did not participate in the trade dispute between the AUEW and the management. The sole question, therefore (remembering that the burden of proving the negative was on the claimant) was whether she was "directly interested in the trade dispute" within the meaning of that expression as used in section 19 (1)

In his Lordship's view, the expression "directly interested in the trade dispute", as used in section 19 (1) as amended, had to be given its ordinary and natural meaning in the context in which it occurred.

That context was that of situations arising out of industrial relations, including among other possible situations that of a trade dispute causing a stoppage of work at some factory or other place of work, at which different groups of workers, belonging to different trade unions, were employed by the same employers.

His Lordship would hold that, where different groups of workers belonging to different unions were employed by the same employers at the same place of work, and there was a trade dispute between the common employers and one of the unions those workers belonging to other unions were directly, and not merely indirectly, interested in the trade dispute provided that two conditions were fulfilled.

The first was that, whatever might be the outcome of the trade dispute, it would be applied by the common employers not only to the group of workers belonging to the one union participating in the dispute, but also to the other groups of workers belonging to the other unions concerned.

The second was that application of the outcome of the dispute "across the board" should come about automatically as a result of one or other of three things: first, a collective agreement which was legally binding; or, second, a collective agreement which was not legally binding; or, third, established industrial custom and practice at the place of work concerned.

It was, in his Lordship's opinion, a pure question of fact whether, in any particular case, those two conditions were satisfied or not. It was, moreover, a question of fact of a kind which insurance officers, local tribunals and the commissioner were, by reason of their wide knowledge and experience of matters pertaining to industrial relations, exceptionally well qualified to answer.

In the present case the commissioner found as a fact that the two conditions were satisfied, in that the employers would, by reason of the factual situation at the factory, by which he clearly meant the established industrial custom and practice there, apply automatically the outcome of their dispute with AUEW to other groups of workers belonging to other unions at the same factory, including the group of workers belonging to USDAW, of which the claimant was one. It was not, and could not with any chance of success have been, contended that there was no or insufficient evidence to support that finding of fact by the commissioner.

There appeared to be three important considerations which supported the approach adopted by his Lordship

The first was that it accorded with that adopted since 1926 by a substantial number of social security commissioners (or their earlier equivalents) after the expression concerned had first appeared. Observations of the Court of Appeal in *R v National Insurance Commissioner, Ex parte Stratton* ([1979] QB 361, 369, 374) made it clear that, where there had been a consistent line of decisions in the field of national insurance by specialized tribunals over a large number of years, a court should be slow to depart from them.

His Lordship agreed with those observations and regarded them as applicable in the instant case.

The second consideration was that the approach adopted by his Lordship accorded substantially with the *ratio decidendi* of the majority judgment of the Court of Session in *Watt v Lord Advocate* (1979 SC 120).

The third consideration was that, if the expression "directly interested in the trade dispute" were to be given a narrower and more legalistic interpretation than his Lordship thought it right to give it, the way would be wide open for deliberate and calculated evasions of the basic provision of section 19 (1) as amended, with the result that the effectiveness of the subsection to achieve its manifest object would be much reduced.

Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser, Lord Keith and Lord Roskill agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, DHSS; Hextall Erskine & Co.

THE ARTS

Cinema: **David Robinson** pays tribute to the genius of Max Linder (left), born 100 years ago today, and reviews new releases in London

Treasurer of visual comedy



One hundred years ago today Gabrielle Leuvielle was born in Saint-Loubès, a little village near Bordeaux, where his parents were wine-growers. As Max Linder he was to become the first great international clown in the cinema. In the seven years preceding the First World War he acheived world-wide fame and popularity that were only to be exceeded by Charlie Chaplin. Yet today Linder is hardly remembered, at least outside his native France. When this year's London Film Festival showed *The Man in the Silk Hat*, the delightful biographical tribute by Linder's own daughter, it was the first opportunity for over half a century to see his masterpieces of comedy; but very few Londoners were curious enough to attend the show.

Linder was the only other comedian of silent films to establish a rapport and friendship with Chaplin, who called him "The Master" or "The Professor". Linder was established as a star even before Chaplin joined the Fred Karno music-hall comedy troupes; and his career was already on the wane by 1914 when Chaplin made his first films. In that time, however, Linder had built up a treasury of visual comedy which has continued to serve his successors – Chaplin included – down to the present day. It is hard to discover a comedy plot or a single gag that is not anticipated in the 500 or more short comedies of his prolific output.

Linder was the first to introduce comedy of character to the screen. Other comedians of his generation depended upon frenetic knockabout. The comedy of Linder's films, like that of Chaplin or any of the later great comedians, rose less from the inherent comedy of the action than from his own responses to it. In Linder's case the humour lay in the contrast between the mad, disordered world he created around him and his own indestructible elegance and style. He was no grotesque: he was young, handsome, debonair, gay, immaculate (give or take an ocasional tumble in a lake or soaking with a hose) in silk hat, frock coat, cravat, spats, patent shoes and swagger cane. He was gallant, and gallantry was generally his downfall, for either his lady friends demanded extravagant exploits, as proof of affection, or he was forced to desperate ruses to avoid large and jealous husbands.

The sophistication of his humour and technique were far ahead of their times. He revealed a distinctive camera sense even before he became his own director. In his first starring film, *Debuts d'un patineur*, he manages, as he teeters and tumbles on his skates, always to keep himself in perfect compositional relationship with the exquisite backgrounds of the frozen Lake Daumesnil. Called upon to turn out his films at the rate of one a week and sometimes one a day, he made imaginative use of whatever locations and props were at hand: the Paris streets; Berlin squares and a Madrid *corrida* when he was on a theatrical tour of Europe; the Côte d'Azur or the ski slopes when he was snatching vacations; his family home when he was recuperating from one of the succession of illnesses that dogged him.

The poles of Linder's creation were the vivid reality that came from this habit, of using locations in preference to the studio, and the surrealities of his comic imagination. Normally inanimate objects like shoes will develop erotic lives of their own; or Linder will launch into nightmares of being discovered taking a bath in public, or engaging in deathly combat with indomitable flypapers.

How could such a supreme comic talent come to be forgotten? He was a victim of history. At the moment that Chaplin emerged to eclipse the rest, Linder's career was abruptly halted by the First World War. After it, badly injured both physically and psychologically, he found it hard to rebuild his career. Two adventures in Hollywood production were less than successful. Back in France his feature career was spasmodic. Eventually he could bear no more. On October 30, 1925, apparently in a suicide pact, he and his 20-year-old wife died in a Paris hotel. In the room with them was their baby daughter, Maud Max Linder, who has spent her adult life working to restore the recognition her father deserves. Channel 4, which does so much for our visual education, plans to show *The Man in the Silk Hat*, her latest and finest tribute, in the near future.

Never Say Never Again (PG)

Warner 4; ABC Shaftesbury Avenue; Studio Oxford Circus; Classics Haymarket, Tottenham Court Road

Jaws 3D (PG)

Plaza

There would be little point in mentioning that Never Say Never Again, directed by Irvin Kershner, is one of the more tedious entertainments on offer this Christmas. No one would believe it of a James Bond picture; and in any event brand loyalty works such wonders that the film has been topping the box-office charts in the United States since it opened a couple of months ago, and will certainly be as successful here. The credit titles indicate commercial confidence: the production partners include European Banking Company, Manufacturers Hanover, MFI Furniture Group, Midland Montagu Leasing and the First National Bank of Chicago (London Branch).

Then again there is the reassurance of old times' sake. Sean Connery (after his own protestations of never again) is back, looking hardly a day older or thicker, and still outclassing every other exponent of the role, in the goodnatured throwaway with which he parries all the sex and violence on the way.

The story recycles *Thunderball*, in which Connery starred 18 years ago; but Lorenzo Semple Jr's script is a rather *monontonous switchback with* Bond alternately placed in fixes and then ingeniously or violently extricated. The element of self-parody is rather clumsly selfconscious ("Lets get back to the gratuitous sex and violence", exhorts "Q"). The touches of sardonic topicality are better: the boffin "Q" has exchanged his laboratory for what looks like a bicycle repair shop and bewails the cut-back of Government funding for his espionage devices.

There is a new element too of movie-buff references: the evil Fatima Blush (Barbara Carrera) is based on the Wicked Queen in *Snow White* both in her costume and her dramatic *staircase* descent, though she makes an exit more like the Witch of the North in *The Wizard of Oz*, sent up in smoke and leaving as the only vestige a smouldering pair of pointy shoes. For the finale the film turns into *The Last Days of Pompeii*. The old gadgetry and special effects work are today somewhat eclipsed by touristic locations (the Bahamas, the Riviera, Monaco) and an excess of underwater action.

Some of the supporting performances (Edward Fox, Rowan Atkinson) are slapdash; the compensatory exception is the arch-villain of Klaus-Maria Brandauer, easily the best thing in any Bond film since Lotte Lenya honoured *From Russia With Love*. As Max Largo, plutocratic collector of yachts, beautiful women, objets d'art and stolen Cruise missiles, he displays a serpentine charm and the chill calm at the edge of madness. Brandauer and the old familiar face of Connery *very nearly make it all worth*while.

Between the Bond film and Jaws 3D much of the week seems to have been spent underwater. Again brand loyalty will no doubt come into play, though the latest *Jaws* seems aimed at an audience so young that they are likely to suffer nightmares from the intermittent shots of masticated corpses; the "Parental Guidance" certificate might well be taken seriously. It all happens in an absurd aquatic theme park, with jolly dolphins, formation water-skiers, tame marine biologists and a sort of underwater haunted house among the attractions. The consequences of the arrival of a monstrous shark will surprise no one with a memory of other disaster movies and the precedent *Jaws*. This shark is admirably selective, only chewing up such undesirables as the theme park's owner (Louis Gossett Jr), a shark himself, and a sensationalist British *press photographer (Simon MacCor*kindale, doing a good deal too much acting).

ArriVision proves the best 3D process so far seen, giving an impression of full contour and reality. (It only goes wrong if the action is too fast or the viewer tilts his head.) The process now seems only to be waiting for better uses.



Donald Cooper

Norman Rossington: thunderous applause

Theatre

Bungled burglary

Mother Goose

Shaw

The second *Mother Goose* of the week is a slicker and better cast piece of work than the Watford version, with equal claims as a traditional panto. But, where Watford gave the story a local twist, the Shaw version simply takes events as they come, dragging the author (Myles Rudge) along in their wake.

On come the Prince of Darkness and his roguishly benevolent opposite number (Joyce Grant) to select Mother Goose's cottage as their battleground, and you expect them to follow through with a plot hinging on human discontent. The Dame then rolls on in the person of a crinolined Norman Rossington who carries contentment to the point of simplemindedness from her opening tumble off her tricycle to her hospitality towards an orphan on the day she is due for eviction by slimy Squire Bagshott.

The story briefly returns to the rails when the Demon King, posing as a representative of the Wicked Landlords' Protection Society, advises the Squire to steal the golden goose and carry on with the eviction so as to erect a multi-storey car park.

But again, that lapses into a bungled burglary routine by the resident clowns (*Jim* Dunk and Clive Wood), incorporating an even feebler ghost routine.

The book is full of empty pantomimic tricks (such as the obligatory big Hello for the most superfluous character), loose ends and undeveloped ideas.

Looking on the bright side, the show has a good score by John Gould that goes with a fine music-hall bounce and includes numbers, such as a recipe for eel stew, that lend themselves to witty chorus work. Ian Judge's production is at its best as a musical: bringing the conspirators together to defend their egg-grabbing as "All For the Public Good", and greeting the visitors to the North Pole with a chorus line of tap-dancing penguins.

Briefly granted his return to youth, Mr Rossington makes a fetching appearance in a tutu to thunderous applause and blown kisses from his balletic partner. And, besides Robert Austin's Demon King, a satanically Edwardian heavy swell, there is a very classy principal boy from Gay Soper, obvious Prince material however humble his surroundings.

Irving Wardle

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Phoenix

"You said it was *Aladdin*", complained a little boy stumbling ahead of me into the stalls. "Well, it's *Snow White*", came the parentl reply. "Now shuddup!" Actually, this show is not too soppy for boys, and anyhow, what with wicked stepmothers disguised as beggar women and encoffined heroines awaiting a prince's kiss, it is hard to remember whether one is seeing *Little Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty* or what.

Dana is sweet, but she and "All kinds of everything" could belong anywhere – and so, frankly, could these cardboard sets, decidedly too tacky for the West End.

Then along come the seven dwarfs – apparently real ones – silhouette-lit and stomping over a bridge with lanterns glowing and Hi-ho noises. Their characterization has little chance to register but their mini-wellies do; a rainbow collection from avocado to violet which junior audiences will probably clamour to buy.

Apart from the sticking door (cue for good comic ad libs), the thudding drop curtain and the painted well that got nudged aside to let the Dame's sedan chair off stage, my only real gripe is that the show's eye on the box office directs it at a telly-reared audience: electric guitar and percussion even for *Nutcracker* dances, and sassy chorus girls as seen on the box.

Even Dame Doughnut (Frankie Desmond) expects and gets *the right reply for "Hi-de-hi"*, but he and Muddles (Mike Newman) have the uncanny rapport of a twinkling Paddy and a rouged old cabbage in camiknickers as they bat balls of dough round the house till everyone winces.

Entering with "Happy Talk" (with blissful incongruity), Dana relaxes into her young audience's vociferous reactions and registers innocent alarm by turning her palms outward as though testing wind resistance prior to takeoff.

Barbara Halliwell's Wicked Queen makes her mark with her chandelier-shattering cackle but the upstaging prize must go to the little red-suited girl, unwisely beckoned on, who peered self-possessedly towards the wings, waved at friends in the audience, and when invited to name herself bashfully wiped her nose with the back of her hand.

Anthony Masters

Dance

Twyla Tharp

Sadler's Wells

Talk about jet-setting: last week Twyla Tharp's company was dancing in Rome, while the American Ballet Theatre with Baryshnikov premiered Tharp's *Sinatra Suite* in Washington. Now Tharp and her dancers are at Sadler's Wells, where *Nine Sinatra Songs* (which was the starting point of the new Sinatra ballet) was the big hit of Wednesday night's opening. The bill also included another world premiere in quite a different mode, *Telemann*, and for starters *Sue's Leg*, danced to songs by Fats Waller.

That was a particularly apt start because his way with a song is very much Tharp's way with a dance. They take something standard and give it an individual twist so that it comes up looking quite different. In *Sue's Leg*, the dance style in related to disco dancing, but it would be an unusual disco that attracted dancers with the flair and personality of Jennifer Waye, Tom Rawe and Raymond Kurshals, not to mention Tharp herself.

Besides which, there is the point that within the deceptively casual ease of it all you actually get bits of tap, vaudeville and other skills thrown in. Then for *Telemann*, to that composer's Concerto in E major for flute, oboe d'amore and violin, suddenly Tharp goes all balletic.

Do not be fooled. This is no more real ballet than the dancers' elegant *deshabille* (by Santo Loquasto, all in white) is real ballet costumes. There are some real ballet steps there on stage, but, as I see it, the intention is to provide a personal equivalent of the lightness, formality and grace of ballet, since that suits this music, but to do it without following ballet's conventions.

Telemann is all delicacy and playfulness; *Nine Sinatra Songs* is sheer razzmatazz in the most glamorous of three handsome settings that are created almost entirely by Jennifer Tipton's superb lighting. The music is actually eight songs and a reprise, cunningly shaped for maximum impact. You start with three duets in a row, each with different dancers, then bring the three couples together for a pseudo-finale to "My Way". After that, start all over with another one, two, three, four couples, building from one climax to another – and how can you miss when everyone comes back, again to "My Way"?

The dancers look stunning (pretty dresses and dinner jackets), the choreography is witty, sexy and stunning by turns (sometimes all at once), and the effect is as if all those half-remembered marvellous old movies had come to life.

John Percival

Concerts

Vienna PO/Mehta

Barbican

This year's homage to Webern, focused in the Olivetti International Webern Cycle, was caught up in Wednesday's closing concert in one of the most boldly-etched Janus faces of all, Schoenberg's *Pelleas und Melisande*.

The work, which was first performed in the year in which Schoenberg *began to teach* Webern, and which inspired his own Passacaglia, was an enriching choice for finale, and all the more so far the Vienna Philarmonic's vital and intensely committed performance.

Zubin Mehta's own *evident* excitement in the work showed, as it should, in his recognition that here was life set in motion by the rhythms of colour itself. If the performance had a weakness it was, indeed, in the sometimes oversharp definition of orchestral counterpoint in narrative which is never quite so explicit as it may seem.

But time and again one had to wonder at moments such as when the oboe, as Melisande, feels its way through the celli, haunted by the spectre of Golaud's horn. *Or at the playful* seduction of the violins by the flute; at the strange menacing aether of flutes, solo cello and harp; at the voracious sense of self-perpetuation in which the entire orchestra is taken up, for *the last time in Schoenberg*.

Before the interval we heard Schumann's Fourth Symphony, stretching out and leaning forwards too, while similarly conscious of the weight it must carry behind. The tingling excitement Schumann felt while composing it failed quite to break through the rigorous duty of this performance, in which sheer physical energy perpetually trod down its imaginative life.

The evening ended, though with a fitting envoi: a repeat performance of Webern's Six Pieces for Orchestra, Op6, pitch and rhythm fluttering in embryo and resonating towards their new birth.

Hilary Finch

Williams/Williamson

Wigmore Hall

One could argue that the piano duo is for the twentieth century what the string quartet was for the late eighteenth: a natural, neutral medium in which to think musically. So it seemed on Wednesday night when Keith Williams and Clive Williamson gave a splendidly alive recital of three works from the last 20 years, all three taking up the invitation and the challenge to peculiarly powerful utterances, unconcerned with trivialities: Ligeti's *Monument* triptych, Bernd Alois Zimmermann's *Monologe* and Roger Smalley's *Accord*. Nowhere, though, did intensity of thought drive away beauty of sound, partly because the pieces are made that way, partly because Mr Williams and Mr Williamson are both warm and colourful musicians as well as expert craftsmen.

This was at once apparent in the Ligeti, which was almost shockingly lovely after the steely, snappish interpretation of the Kontarski brothers familiar on record. The mechanical severity of the first movement lapsed more rapidly into a mirage, and the work appeared to find its fulfillment, rather than its dissolution, in the finale, where previous events are put under water and wobbled.

The Zimmermann performance was also revelatory, concerning the general feeling that his music has become more crucial in the 13 years since his suicide. *Monologe* might seem an ironic title for music engaging two performers, but the piece is very much a soliloquy by the composer, in which he sets the creatures of his own imagination against those of other composers from Bach to Messiaen, and aainst the awful consequences of imagination gone dead: massive *splashes of clusters and groan*ings in the deep bass.

Smalley's majestic, spacious and vibrant study in harmony, now happily available on record (Auracle Aucauc 1006), gave the concert a richly rewarding second half.

Paul Griffiths

Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Accardo

Festival Hall

Founded in 1981, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe is an international body with many British-looking names. On Wednesday evening it showed itself to be an ensemble of very high calibre, and in the opening Andante of Mozart's Divertimento, K137, the strings produced a tone that was beautifully smooth and light but also acutely expressive. They were acutely responsive as well to Salvatore Accardo's batonless direction.

The bounding central movement entailed no loss of refinement; in fact the nuances were almost as detailed. Several dynamic levels were clearly defined in the finale, but one could have done with a clearer differentiation of tempos between these last two movements. The composer's directions – Allegro di molto and Allegro assai – are not of maximum helpfulness.

For Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante, K364, Mr Accardo continued as director while taking up not his expected *violin but the viola. The violin* soloist was Iona Brown. An opening tutti showed that modest woodwind and brass additions made little difference to the sharpness of the CoE's ensemble. And these players were full of well-directed energy in the purely orchestral passages of the latter movements.

Both soloists were at first rather disappointing, and did not project their phrases at all convincingly. In time they merged into the foreground, however; and gave a very fine account of the first movement's cadenza. The central Andante was far more consistent, and the soloists' was a beautiful conversation indeed. Though always considerable, their expressive intensity was varied with much discretion.

We finally heard Mr Accardo's masterly violin playing in Mozart's rather lengthy "Haffner" Serenade, K250, which he again conducted. He proved to be stylish in both roles, and shaped the *adventurous* development section of the first movement with considerable insight. And soon afterwards there was some nearly sublime solo violin playing.

Max Harrison

Television

Firing line

To those who watched Monday's *Horizon*, in which FBI marksmen learnt gleefuly to hit the "centre mass" between their targets' armpits, last night's TV Eye (ITV) will have seemed endearingly homespun. "Where's that first live round?", *an officer asked* a volunteer hoping to join the 5,000 authorized shots in the Metropolitan Police. The round was not where it should have been. "Oh my God!", said the officer, with a mock-desperate laugh.

Selection methods for this élite group were, according to one new entrant, inevitably "a hit and miss affair". Well, yes and no. The programme had begun with a convincingly wet and confused re-enactment of the shooting of Stephen Waldorf, who was seen coaching the actors in their nasty, short and brutish parts. "We were frightened", said one of the actor-policemen, explaining his near-fatal mistake. One of Scotland Yard's top men indicated that psychological testing would soon form part of their selection procedures; a retired superintendent, from Yorkshire suggested that training courses should have such stresses built into them as would "make a man *break if he's going to*".

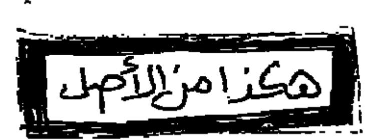
Mr Waldorf, who made a personal appearance at the critics' preview, described the reconstruction as a "very fair portrayal" of what had happened to him, and added that the dramatization had helped him get something out of his system. No reviewer could argue with that.

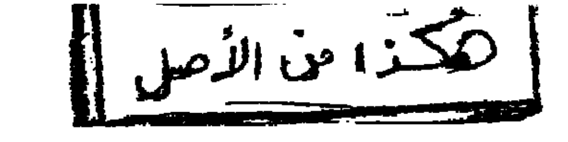
Guns were much in evidence in Channel 4's A Flame to the Phoenix (surely phoenixes provide their own flames?) as some exquisitely-dressed Polish aristocrats, counterpointed by some poor but honest Polish proles, waited for the 1939 war clouds to burst over their heads. There were also some exquisitely-dressed English aristocrats at the country house where the events unfolded, though as everyone spoke wiith exquisite Oxford accents, and as all the young men seemed to have the same sort of face, it was hard to tell who was who.

Heel-clicking heroism with a *basis in historical truth is an* infallibly effective recipe, so this *Film on Four* was in little danger from the off-button, but it was appallingly cheapened in its final frames. As handsome Florian died bravely in the saddle we flashed back to his teenage cousin's words about her lost virginity, an unlikely tale when first told, and grotesquely inappropriate now. Vulgarity, like murder, will out.

Today's History (Channel 4) took an interesting if over-diffuse look at changing notions of "childhood", from miniature adult to wage-slave to (increasingly now) a substitute for immortality. It made an excellent commercial for the Christmas issue of *History Today*.

Michael Church




هكذا من الأصل

SPECTRUM

Sex, sadism and . . . shrewdness

Actor Sean Connery is best known for his role as James Bond, Ian Fleming's suave, cool secret agent. But the Bond image is a far cry from the star's early life in an Edinburgh tenement. Duncan Fallowell talks to Connery as his new Bond film opens in Britain



Sean Connery: *"I think I can say I've never maliciously done anything to anyone"* (Photograph by Brian Harris)

This interview is short and fast, bright and early in the George V Suite at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane. Sean Connery is wearing a green Bahamas Golf Club sweater. The Bahamas and Marbella are alternately "home". But Mr Connery is a shrewd Scot – the legal address is Monte Carlo.

What's his next film going to be? "I've no idea. I've acquired a whole batch of stuff I want to read. I haven't read anything in a long time. I've been doing things like 30-hour flights from Australia. You can't concentrate if you *do things like that.*" Who's his favourite actor? "Unfortunately he died. Sir Ralph Richardson." Actress? "Um . . . I adore Katherine Hepburn."

Nothing very idiosyncratic so far. Connery conveys a tremendous impression of reliability both as man and star. His impact is larger than life. Or is it less than life, this giant certainty unencumbered by neurosis, this temperament whose most exotic obsession is golf?

What are his weaknesses as an individual? "The real skill in dealing with major problems in relationships is to be able to unknow something about someone. You know something about a producer, say. To unknow it so that it doesn't get in the way of the main issue, that kind of detachment, I find it awfully difficult."

Well, here's an American question connected with that: has being famous made him a nicer person?

"I think I can say I've never maliciously done anything to anyone. If I have any religion or philosophy it's that I'd rather leave the place at least the same, if not better, having been here. And I have no desire to treat people any other way than I would like to be treated myself."

The Connery Code is a pretty strict one but, honed in a northern climate, it comes naturally to him. He doesn't smoke. He doesn't like bunglers or smart alecs or inefficiency of any kind. He goes straight from the film set to the golf course to the marital bed with hardly any deviations en route except, perhaps, for a sensible meal. But he isn't a cold person, at least not with strangers, so what's his idea of a good party?

"No more than six or eight people. Oh, that's not always true – we had a very good party, more or less by accident, when we were filming in London and I had an apartment in Lennox Gardens, just behind Harrods there. I just decided to have a few people round and it coincided with people coming into town – Michael was coming in – Michael and Shakira . . . yes, Caine. Roger was there – Roger Moore, that is – and Albert Finney and Diana Quick – and James Hunt and his dog Oscar – and Jackie – Jackie Stewart, with his wife, and Barbara was there with the guy she's now married to, Barbara Carrera, and Michael Medwin – none of us had seen each other for a wee while and it went on and on, nobody wanted to go. It was marvellous. That's what a party's all about – timing. Otherwise I like a dinner where there's at least two people who don't quite get on."

When was the last time you were drunk?

The Connery Code, honed in a northern climate

"Oh, just the other night actually. I like Scotch. I'm going back a bit to beer now, too."

How many children do you have? The files give different numbers.

"That's because I inherited some. When I married Diane Cilento she already had a daughter. Then we had Jason, who's my only child." Divorced 1973. "My present wife has from a previous marriage two sons and a daughter, and the daughter has two daughters." He married Micheline in 1976. She is Moroccan. They met at a golf tournament in Mohamaha, Morocco. Connery won the men's title, she the women's.

Have you enjoyed being a father?

". . . Yes. One could have been better. Coming late to a choice of career, not marrying until late, the showbusiness lifestyle, the need for domestic help, got in the way somewhat."

Your own home as a child – was it warm and welcoming?

"No. It was very austere. So one really spent as much time as possible out in the streets."

Connery is an intelligent man, but one drawn in broad, simple strokes with any oddities ruthlessly edited out as soon as he was sufficiently rich and famous to become uncompromisingly non-eccentric. But the granite line begins early, in 1930 when he was born into a poor Edinburgh household and given the name Thomas: father a lorry driver, mother a charlady, his cot a wardrobe drawer, his bedroom later the kitchen, tin baths in front of the fire, a lavatory shared by 12 families on the tenement staircase.

At nine he started work, delivering milk before school. At 13 he left school and became a full-time milkman. At 17 he went into the Royal Navy – discharged three years later with ulcers. Subsequent jobs included lorry driver, cement mixer, bricklayer, steel bender, coffin polisher.

Then more curious and narcissistic influences came into play. He became a lifeguard at a swimming pool, took up body building, became an artist's model where he learned to relax while displaying himself – excellent training for a star whose key quality would always be physical presence. Connery represented Scotland in a Mr Universe competition (bronze medal) in London, where a friend playing in the musical *South Pacific* said there was a vacancy in the chorus. On impulse Connery applied and got it. He decided to become a actor.

Although Tom became Sean in 1951, stardom wasn't as immediate. His first break was in a television play in 1956 – a 20th Century Fox contract and string of B films followed. "I'll do anything I can get my hands on," he said to Patricia Lewis in her "Confidentially" column in the *New Chronicle* in 1957. What he describes as the "prostitution phase" of his life ended in 1962 with the appearance of the first Bond, *Dr No*.

If he was a lad in Edinburgh now, unemployed, no future, what would he do?

"It's desperate, I know. I've been up there. As you'll note, I was able to get into the work ethic very early. What happens now, I don't know . . ."

Now for a few questions about sex. Connery is known to resent too-direct questions about his personal life, but he doesn't flinch. First, how did he discover the facts of life?

"Oh well, where I was born they were all messing around from the ages of seven and eight onwards in this big tenement building. It was impossible not to discover the facts of life. And there's a great puritan streak in Scotland which of course immediately intrigued the children – you wanted to know all about what was so terrible."

Can you remember your first experience of a woman?

"The decisive encounter was – we used to have air-raid shelters underground because the war was still on, I expect they're all filled in now – and I was walking along and was followed by an ATS woman and I was what, 14 years old I suppose, just left school. We ended up down in the air-raid shelters. A lot of things started in those shelters. This one was full of water, I remember, with planks and duckboards to walk on."

In a 1961 interview he said: "I don't

I have a chance to play out the fantasies

think there's anything very wrong about hitting a woman. I don't, though, recommend hitting a woman the way you hit a man." Would he still go along with that?

"Oh, yes, I still go along with that."

Generally speaking, would you call yourself a romantic? James Bond definitely is. In fact it is probably Bond's most amiable characteristic.

"No, I'm not."

He is a very masculine man – what is feminine in his character? For the first time the composure shudders. A glance of suspicion shoots out the side of his face, that famous suspicion which has battled journalists and producers alike, always on guard against being exploited, taken for a ride, *used*. He still attacks the exploiters, rather pointlessly since he's as rich as any. It is the puritanism again, informed by a slightly left wing sympathy. But actors are made to be used and, if they want to be stars, exploitation of their qualities is essential.

" . . . I don't know. I'm not very good at reading my feminine side. You'll probably have to ask my wife . . . I don't see myself as macho as the image. It's something that got built up."

One of the specific mistakes in *Never Say Never Again* is to put Connery into a toupé again. It ages him terribly. He looks much better without it. What's good about getting older?

"I'll can't think of too many things, actually. A Muslim Moroccan friend of my wife's says the thing to do is to acquire wisdom, that the real pleasure of getting older is to become wiser. I have flashes of what I take to be wisdom, but on the whole I don't seem to learn a great deal. I went through that phase of the *I Ching*, Ouspensky's *In Search Of The Miraculous*, Gurdjieff, *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, you know. At the end of the day, it's not dissimilar to what's in the Bible."

Life's been good to him, on the whole. Has he had to pay a price, has he known any extreme unhappiness?

"No. I think the job has given me a chance to play out the fantasies, the kind of stuff which might well otherwise build up inside. When I was young I was very anxious and tense, though. My ulcers started at 16. But acting released this. I never want to go back to that again."

moreover... Miles Kington

The Last Post at Christmas

Wayside Pulpit, by the Totally Reverend Phil Marsh, Chaplain to the TUC

I read the other day in the paper that it was already too late to send Christmas cards to people beginning with "Z" in Buenos Aires.

Maybe those weren't the exact details. But that was the general idea.

And it made me very sad.

Somewhere in an Argentine suburb sits someone called Alberto Zarzuela (let us say) who is condemned to receive no Christmas cards from us in Britain. A printer, perhaps, whose livelihood is threatened by the draconian laws enacted by the late military junta. How do we feel about this?

I know how I feel.

I feel that draconian is a funny word. People use it all the time without knowing what it means. I know I do. So today I am going to look it up in the dictionary.

Well, well, what do you know? Draco is the name of a faint constellation in the sky. So that is what it comes from.

No, hold on. Drace was also the name of an Athenian lawgiver who made almost everything punishable by death. So draconian law, they say, is "harsh".

I'll say.

I had no idea that it was punishable by death to form a closed shop of printers. No wonder our lads are out in force at Warrington. No wonder Alberto Zarzuela is feeling a bit apprehensive in sunny Argentina. Every Christmas card he receives is printed by a man who may have been taken out and shot by the time he gets it.

Makes you think, doesn't it?

Little did William Caxton think when he first used moveable type that his successors would be flocking to Warrington to safeguard their very lives. If he had known, do you think he would have joined them?

I doubt it.

In those days Warrington was but a tiny hamlet between Macclesfield and Liverpool, neither of which existed. Will Caxton and his merry band of flying pickets would have looked right twittes descending on three cottages and shouting: "Reinstate ye Warrington sixe!" I doubt that there were six in Warrington to reinstate.

And yet the principle is absolutely correct. Jesus says in the Bible (TUC version): "Blessed are the solid, for they shall get their just demands. Behold, I have been to my executive, and my executive is with me on this one."

What did He mean by this?

I think He meant that Alberto Zarzuela is depending on every one of us to stick by him this Christmas tide, to send him Christmas cards even if they arrive late. Behold, there were printers in the field to whom the angel appeared saying, Have you got my carol sheet ready yet? And they made reply saying, This is our busiest period, you will have to wait like everyone else. For unto us a son is born *£&(), down the right wing and scored and bring to the table piping hot (*continued page 67*). Late result: Wrexham 0, Hymn 564.

I wonder what this means?

Blow me if I know.

And yet one thing I do know, because I have just looked it up in my Spanish dictionary. Zarzuela means "musical drama". Pantomime, parhaps? Do they also at this season have in Buenos Aires an extended run of "Ali Baba y los cuarenta ladrones"? Or "Ricardo Whittington", going on till March 3, if the new government lasts that long?

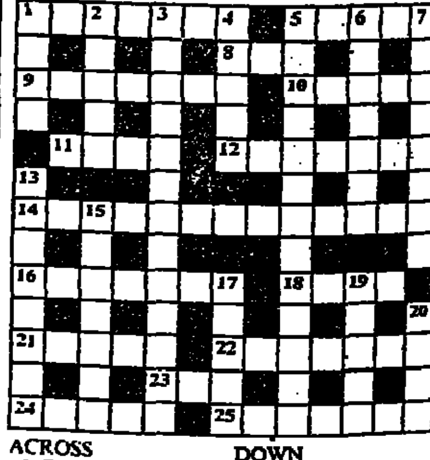
Impossible to tell. So let us, at this time of year, turn our thoughts finally to a stable in Bethlehem, where inside the oxen and ass are warm and comfortable, and outside a line of freezing photgraphers waits in the cold. It's a hard life being a press photographer, waiting for something that may never happen, peering through frozen keyholes and breaking down doors with their bare hands.

I believe the Italians call them paparazzi.

I wonder why?

Unfortunately, I haven't got an Italian dictionary.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 225)



ACROSS
1 Defrauded (7)
5 Colourless body fluid (5)
8 Egg cells (3)
9 Confound (7)
10 Employees' documents (5)
11 Anti aircraft fire (4)
12 Sea lavender (7)
14 Big dipper (6,7)
16 Unrefined (7)
18 Smack (4)
21 Birds' resting place (5)
22 Ice hockey start (4,3)
23 Ingest (3)
24 Speak (5)
25 Greeter (7)

DOWN
1 Counterpart (4)
2 Constrain (5)
3 Finger weapon (7,6)
4 Extinct birds (5)
5 Idle (13)
6 Marx follower (7)
7 Inn (8)
13 Elaborate dress (8)
15 Prevent from entry (4,3)
17 Lifts (5)
19 Assume (5)
20 From a distance (4)

SOLUTION TO No 224
ACROSS: 1 Pastor 5 Blotch 8 ETA 9 Unhasp 10 Safari 11 Plus 12 Occupant 14 Code of conduct 17 Postpone 19 Gibe 21 Coping 23 Signet 24 Ace 25 Bodkin 26 Exempt
DOWN: 2 Annul 3 Transient 4 Reproof 5 Basic 6 Off 7 Chronic 13 Pedagogue 15 Oloroso 16 Oversee 18 Organ 20 Bleep 22 Ilk

Keeping alive the pioneering spirit

In a timely antidote to recent ballyhoo surrounding polar expeditions, two young Britons are putting the finishing touches to an ambitious plan by which they will become the first men to haul a sledge unaided to the South Pole. It is not, they say, an expedition of discovery so much as one of rediscovery: indeed, they have given it the title "In the Footsteps of Scott".

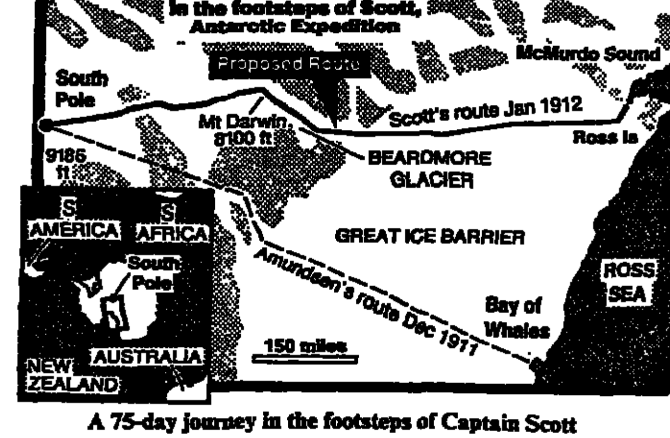
Robert Swan, aged 27, and Roger Mear, 32, plan to set out for the Pole in October, 1985. By a quirk of fate, a French expedition using dogs will repeat Amundsen's journey at the same time. The celebrated race to the Pole of 1911 between Scott and Amundsen will therefore, in a way, be reenacted.

The men's motivation is refreshing. Swan, the leader, emphasizes their deep respect both for the past and for the fragile Antarctic environment. They have disdained travel by vehicle or resupply by air-drop, which would have rendered the journey unremarkable: when they reach their destination, however, they will be lifted out on one of the regular flights from the US base at the Pole.

Committed conservationists, they wish to draw attention to Antarctica's great assets: its isolation and beauty. "I could not go to the Pole on a conservation ticket sitting on a machine", Swan says. "Let's go back and achieve a journey that gives us and others a sense of the old spirit of polar exploration."

To the suggestion that they will only be completing half of Scott's journey, and the easier half at that, Swan explains that Scott had taken support parties to within 170 miles of the Pole: they will take none. This will make their loads heavier, a brutal 300lbs per man at the start, reducing by 5lbs a day as food and fuel are consumed.

As it is, they will start with full sledges to cross the first 400 miles of relatively flat barrier. When they reach the foot of the Beardmore glacier, loads will still be a daunting 200lbs. Ten days of herculean and dangerous effort should get them up the glacier and on to the polar plateau, where 350 miles will separate them from the Pole. They plan to take 75 days in all.



A 75-day journey in the footsteps of Captain Scott

It is fascinating to compare the changes wrought by the passage of 74 years. I asked Swan what psychological advantages he had over his famous predecessor. "We now have no fear of scurvey", he replied. "Neither do we fear isolation."

Scurvy was the bane of expeditions until vitamins were discovered just after Scott's time. General nutrition has also much improved. For instance, Scott's daily ration, mainly of pemmican and biscuits, weighed 2lbs 3ozs and gave 4,430 calories. Swan's will weigh 1lb 15ozs to produce 5,271 calories.

The radio has banished much of the anxiety of isolation. The pioneers made their decisions and their lives then depended on their sound judgment. Swan, on the insistence of the Americans who would be responsible for search and rescue, will take a radio. He can shout for help and someone will hear.



Swan: into the past

How do physical abilities compare, then and now? Scott's men, no doubt typical of their generation, were a hardy bunch but made no systematic effort to keep fit and were selected more for their all-round suitability and qualifications than for their purely physical attributes. Swan is a marathon runner while Mear is the sort of tough mountaineer labelled a "hard man"; both maintain a rigorous routine of fitness training and both have previous Antarctic experience.

Technology has given us equipment that is lighter, stronger and better. Scott's reindeer-skin sleeping bag weighed 15llbs and iced up dangerously. The modern down-filled bag is warmer and weighs about 6lbs. Scott took an 11lbs pick axe. Swan will have a telescopic ski pole/ice axe weighing 3lbs. And this story is repeated with every item of equipment.

Mountaineers consider a pair of men to be at a hazard on a glacier because if one falls into a crevasse the other cannot physically haul him out. Swan and Mear will be at particular risk on the fearsome Beardmore glacier. Crevasse rescue techniques have much improved, however, and they have some ingenious braking devices on their sledges to ensure that, if one man falls in, the other should not be dragged down also.

To keep costs down, the expedition will be conveyed to and from Antartica by an Australian-manned yacht. Even so, the project will cost some £324,000 – a modest budget compared, for instance, with the £4m for the Fiennes Trans-Globe spectacular. In the course of the expedition the yacht will circumnavigate the globe and it will be sold on completion to reduce the budget. There will be a total of seven expedition members in addition to the yacht's crew.

Sir Peter Scott, son of Captain Scott, is the expedition's patron. He particularly welcomes the way in which it will draw attention to the now urgent problem of the conservation of Antarctica. I suspect that he will also welcome the attitude of respect for his father that the venture reflects, in contrast to the hatchet job done on his reputation by the recent book *Scott and Amundsen*.

Mike Banks

The author is an explorer and mountaineer and holder of the Polar medal.

FRIDAY PAGE

COMMENT

Long time on short list

I have just completed the current school headship circuit. By the end I had accepted my status as the statutory woman on a short list, or indeed often on the long list. The comments of male colleagues reveal a marked enthusiasm for the presence of females in the management team, combined with a despair at the paucity and relative lack of qualifications of such applicants.

In January 1982 there were 3,307 male secondary heads and 656 female secondary heads in maintained schools in England. The figures are undisputed. In today's social climate this is serious. First, current correspondence suggests a growing concern at the lack of outstanding applicants for top educational jobs; in which case artificial barriers hindering more than 50 per cent of teaching staff are folly. Second, it is democratically unacceptable to hinder the access of one particular group to top posts on entirely irrelevant grounds. Third, the hidden influence of the institutional power structure on the present generation of students has serious connotations. Fourth, changing social conventions mean that many women will become the breadwinners and therefore should certainly have fair access to more senior positions.

The reasons for this disparity in achievement are both practical and psychological. The overwhelming disadvantage the majority of women suffer is immoblity. Most are married and cannot leave their husbands' area of work. The clogging up of the promotional ladder, consequent on declining rolls, has meant that movement is almost essential for promotion.

The effect of motherhood on career prospects is seriously underestimated, despite lip service to its value as an experience. The physical effects of childbirth are often not emphasized. We suffer the worst maternity provisions in Western Europe, except for the Irish Republic. There is no guarantee of part-time work during the early years of motherhood, followed by a return to full-time employment. Instead, with the present job crisis, teachers must hang grimly on to their full-time posts or face long term unemployment. There are formidable child care obstacles.

My experience of commuting husbands in the South-east made me realize that a daily absence of 12 hours was normal. Professional promotion depends not only on the efficiency of one's teaching, but also on wider educational contributions, such as examination marking, union activity, part-time study for higher degrees and in-service training courses. Their combination with a full-time job, domestic responsibility and finally motherhood is formidable indeed.

Some would argue that the psychological barriers were even more important. The basic problem is women's perception of themselves and their abilities. For four years, as vice-principal, I was the sole female member of senior and middle management in a sixth-form college. All the heads of department – apart from Home Economics – were male. The stress was considerable.

What do we do? First, every LEA should circularize the relevent statistics. There is nothing like hard fact in fighting any case. Second, those shortlisting for any senior appointment (Scale III upwards) should give clearly formulated reasons for an entirely male shortlist. Third every LEA should mount in-service training sessions – organized by women for their female teachers. Fourth, requirements are more fundamental and include changes in our outdated maternity provisions and the Victorian assumptions of our tax and benefit laws.

For years we have accepted the philosophy that deprivation stemming from class and race must be rectified by positive action. Even the traditionally liberal minded jib at a similar stance on sex.

Geraldine Evans

The author is principal of King George V College, Southport.

Much ado about cartoons

Helen Mason on the rivalry over a race to publish artists' versions of Shakespeare



When *Macbeth* in cartoon strip form was introduced to an astounded public last year there were many, including scholars, purists, and publishers who had turned the work down, who believed there was no market for such an outrageous product. They were all wrong. Not only is there a market, but also there is considerable rivalry to corner it. This month, with *Macbeth* still selling, there are two more cartoon books on sale.

The cartoon classics were the brainchild of artist Von, who has produced a version of *Romeo and Juliet* (pictured right) which has reached the book shops only days before a cartoon version of *Othello*. To the public, all three cartoons look like part of a series, with variations only in price. They are identical in shape and size and all use first folio texts. But in fact they come from different publishers.

Von's first illustrated play, *Macbeth*, was neglected for three years until it was spotted by Anne Tauté, who created Oval Projects in order to publish it. But Von's subsequent version of *Romeo and Juliet* was published by Michael Joseph. Oval Projects' second Shakespeare cartoon was drawn by Oscar Zarate.

Both publishers intend to produce more plays and such rivalry must amaze all who doubted that comic book Shakespeare was a commercial proposition.

Publishers who rejected *Macbeth* invariably asked: "Who is it aimed at?" Scholars would disdain the unsubtle format, they said, while comic book devotees would be dismayed by the full text. But *Macbeth* was bought by children as well as adults, and often by parents and teachers. It is a success.

If the race is taken the full length of all 37 plays, the odds are on Anne Tauté to win. She has more runners in the field. Michael Joseph intend to put all their money on Von, but Oval Projects will use a different artist for each play.

Von, who estimates it costs him £15,000 to produce the artwork for a play, started to sell the idea halfway through the recession. He took on a business partner in a venture calling for faith – it was three years before they sold *Macbeth*. Anne Tauté had faith. She saw the artwork in New York and mortgaged her house, sold everything she could and formed a company, Oval Projects, to publish it.

The legal action which briefly and dramatically stopped the presses as *Macbeth* was being printed in Hongkong was the first public intimation of a rift between the two. Anne Tauté still cannot speak of the event without her voice rising in bewilderment. "I don't understand – I never *will* understand", she told me. "We were at the eleventh hour and I was in Hongkong when we got an injunction to stop printing."

Von, who recalls the scene with more langour, claims he and his partner sought the injunction because they were concerned about the quality of printing. He told me disarmingly last week that one motive for going to court was to force a meeting with Anne Tauté, with whom he said there had developed a communications problem. As the action is estimated by Anne Tauté to have cost him £20,000 it was a flambouyant gesture. Oval's defence cost £7,000, but it won.

Despite these lively disagreements Von took his second work, *Romeo and Juliet*, to Oval, which had an option on his next book. Anne Tauté turned it down.

She explained her decision to reject *Romeo and Juliet*. "It wasn't a patch on the first work. I said 'Look it's not right. But would you like to do another crude, bloody one, for instance, take two years and do *Hamlet*?' "

Romeo and Juliet, published by Michael Joseph, beat *Othello* to the bookshops by a matter of days. *Othello* scores by being cheaper (£4.50 in soft cover against £4.95) and has the added advantage of an optional package, including BBC cassettes of the play starring Paul Scofield. Oval has *King Lear* and *Twelfth Night* in production and aims to keep three artists working at once. The pace is rather slower for Von, who is awaiting a contract to do *Midsummer Night's Dream* and hopes to follow that with *Hamlet*. Both publishers have an agreement not to overlap, but I asked Von if it irritated him to find himself in competition over cartoon Shakespeare.

"What irritates me are two things. That I am in competition, yes, with my own idea, although it is not that so much as that I feel it was so forcibly taken away from me. I think that is the real point. I would never have minded if the whole thing had been amicable. I never intended, after all, to do all 37 plays. I feel ten would be a nice round number to start with. And secondly it irritates me that I am grubbing around to do my next book, whereas Anne has a commitment for a series."

He believes the problem lies in his insistence on royalties as well as an advance for his work. Certainly he has a royalties contract for *Macbeth* and wanted one from Oval for *Romeo and Juliet*. It is also, however, understandable that Anne Tauté, whose troubles with Von are by no means over, might prefer to work with less litigious artists. Her relationship with Oscar Zarate, who was paid a flat fee for *Othello*, was trouble-free.

Von approaches Shakespeare with respect, affection and a rather scholarly tendency to pedantry. He owns the first folio edition from which the text for the plays was used.

Zarate, an Argentinian, has a gentle, diffident personality which no one who has seen his work would expect. His pictures suggest he sees the world as a menacing place, an atmosphere he has grafted on to his bald and sinister Venetians, his sly-lipped Iago and his foolishly venal Roderigo. His work on *Othello* is an extention of the drawings of punks and skinheads in his studio.

At 41, he is ten years older than Von. The idea of a Spanish-speaking Argentinian producing an illustrated *Othello* had struck me as incongruous, but Zarate smiled and said: "We read Shakespeare in Argentina, you know. He does not belong only to the English."

Although Zarate had no difficulties with Oval Projects, his work on *Othello* was not devoid of trauma. When he was commissioned to do the play, the Falklands crisis was reaching its height and it affected him badly. "I became very paranoid. I was disgusted with the whole event, with both sides. When the war started I was dealing with the first act where Othello is called to the senate and has to go and repress a Turkish invasion of Cyprus." The parallels struck him forcibly. "I was very paralysed for a while. I was going from radio to television to newspapers. Then to Shakespeare. I do not see Othello as a noble hero. I see him as a mercenary."

Zarate has no reservations about the value of cartoon Shakespeare. Curiously, at one time Von did. Illustrated Shakespeare is not new, although cartoons using the full text are. Von himself had a comic version as a child but had not, he told me, taken it seriously.

"To me", he said, "Shakespeare is the language and to abridge or colloquialize removes the essence. I got an enormous amount of pleasure out of Shakespeare, even as a 16-year-old."

Overcoming his instinctive mild snobbery about comics, he found the project artistically exciting and, like everyone else involved in publishing Shakespeare comics, claims a missionary zeal in bringing the Bard to the masses.

He also admits candidly to a reasonable expectation that the project might make him a lot of money. He was paid £15,000 in advance but claims it cost him a great deal to produce the artwork. "It hasn't made me rich. It's made me poor. I'm broke which is why I'm living here with friends." He is living in a grandly decaying house in Bath, all stripped wood and marvellous objects on the walls, one of them a painting of Von's. He believes that by now he should be receiving royalties for *Macbeth*, a claim to which Anne Tauté reacts with controlled exasperation.

"It's quite ludicrous. People who know nothing about publishing imagine it's all very quick money. An advance is an advance against royalties. If you give someone £15,000 before publication, it is £15,000 to be earned by royalties as they come in. Von gets statements which show him exactly what the situation is. He will get royalties – when he has exceeded his advance."

The crucial question is, how many copies of *Macbeth* have been sold? One report stated that the English printing of 33,000 sold out in three months and in America, with a print run of 53,000, it is being reprinted. Von is very interested in these figures which he is trying to verify. Anne Tauté, however, claims the first edition has not sold out in England, and says the American publishers are wishing they had not ordered so many.

Standing fastidiously back from these disagreements is Von's new editor, Phillipa Harrison at Michael Joseph, an English graduate whose first reaction to cartoon Shakespeare was lukewarm. She changed her mind, she said, when the American company which owns the rights showed her Von's work. "I think it is absolutely lovely", she said. "And I think there is no harm in having two publishers doing illustrated Shakespeare. Providing we don't overlap."

A help or a hindrance? What the critics say



Scenes from *Othello*, published by Oval Projects

"They're ghastly ... terrible ... dreadful", said the actor, Donald Sinden. "What really appals me is that for these prices people could get really good seats in a theatre to *see* the plays. Take Iago, from *Othello*, the play I know best because I have just played it. He is meant to disarm, the audience should trust him. This Iago, from page one onwards, is utterly villainous. As for the speeches, the verses – they are better laid out, dare I say it, in a Penguin edition. I think people who read comics would find it all very confusing."

Schoolchildren were all prepared to welcome the books, even flick through them, although none seized them to retire to a quiet corner. I sought a more profound view from the only A-level student I know who is an authority on Shakespeare. Matthew Fay is 17, comes from a family with theatrical enthusiasms stretching back to the Abbey theatre and has been a dedicated theatregoer since childhood.

He has seen much of Shakespeare, including *Othello* four or five times, and got an A grade at O-level in English literature. He used his own acid test on the cartoon plays by looking for specific soliloquies and speeches to see how they had been treated, and found the layout unsympathetic.

"It's not in verse lines, so you do not get the idea of iambic pentameter. Where the verse does matter you have to dart from place to place. The pictures work best where there are few words and a lot of action, such as Cassio's drunk scene. I'd love to have had something like this in the third year, but it wouldn't have much value for anyone seriously studying a play."

He liked the look of *Romeo and Juliet*. "The pictures make a good attempt at continuity. I think this guy manages to make the drawings complement the play. The colours and pictures do have a dramatic tenor to them, and the pictures are more sensitive to the text."

The views of teachers vary with the abilities of the children they teach. David Lund, head of English at a public day-school for boys, was unhappy.

"If it is a way of bringing people to Shakespeare who might not otherwise read the plays, fine. And on the credit side, at least the text is intact. But there is more to say against than for. There is the problem of who is speaking and in what order, and a shortage of stage directions. When you are studying Shakespeare, as opposed to reading it, you need a glossary. I think this is pandering to a mentality which expects everything packaged in pop form.

"It certainly does not inspire respect for the word on a page. Anything that brings Shakespeare to people who might then go and see it in the theatre could break down the class difference in his popularity. But if interest ends with the cartoon play it isn't doing much good. It seems to me the young imagination can conjure up a much more interesting picture than what is being offered here. Frankly, this is a travesty of what one is capable of in one's imagination."

This view contrasted sharply with that of a teacher, now head of English at a sixth-form centre, who taught until this year at a mixed ability school in a deprived area.

She said: "I welcome anything that makes Shakespeare more accessible. When I was dealing with third and fourth-year classes of girls who approached Shakespeare with reluctance, I used devices like this myself. I got them to put the story into cartoon form, report the plots as for a newpaper, and act them out.

I often found that overcoming initial reluctance was all that was needed. The layout of a play, any play, can be off-putting to anyone. And Shakepeare, with all those slabs of verse and archaic words, is particularly alien at first."

FIRST PERSON

Caroline Harper

My lesbian daughter

It is tough going for convention-bound, sensitive parents when offspring decides to "educate" them into the 1980s. If your young should show missionary zeal in your latter-day enlightenment, don't cut and run. Just brace yourself for shocks.

Two years ago my daughter, who lives in London, broke the news that she was "gay" (her terminology, not mine). The shock was seismic, stunning; and I found myself grieving for a daughter I thought I'd lost.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. Today, from our disparate viewpoints and ways of life, we are closer than we ever were when she was a rebellious teenager, turning over new boyfriends and old motor cars with a panache that caught the eye of parents and police alike.

I am not pretending that it's all been plain sailing or that I am now reconciled to her way of life. We have both, separately, been through enough heartache to keep in overdrive during many a sleepless night. She, during the years, was trying to suppress her "unnatural" feelings, with near-disastrous effects on her health, both physical and mental. And I, during the painful time of seeking advice and information on bisexuality – at my daughter's suggestion – from friends and colleagues.

I thought I knew the underlying reason for it, of course: the divorce darkening her teenage years. We, her parents, must share the blame for her perversion – if that's what it was.

Friends were reassuring on this point; and unshocked. But then, it wasn't *their* daughter, was it? Any imbalance of male and female genes is from birth, I was told; although it's possible for a traumatic experience to act as catalyst and tip the fine balance one way or the other. It could be a temporary phase in her life that she would discard "when the right man comes along". (It was a man said that!) And if it wasn't temporary the concensus was: "well, does it really matter, as long as she is happy and fulfilled?"

I went up to town to see her. We talked as we have never talked before; in the street, over a meal, between acts of a play – as much woman to woman as mother to daughter. I learned how her new sexual freedom had helped her to think and express herself more clearly than she had been able to for years. Even if I didn't agree with her new life, shouldn't I be grateful for that?

Now, two years later, she has given up her job and her career to become a "mature" student. She is surviving on her grant in one of London's deprived areas, picking up banners left, right and centre, mainly left, and, with a women's group, campaigning for a prostitutes' union.

When she does put pen to paper to keep tutors and parents happy, she undermines the English language with socio-feminist jargon, incensing us all. (She happens to be reading English for her degree).

We meet regularly and she fills me in on Life – the stuff of which headlines are made – as she sees it. As I see it, it is highly uncomfortable, slanted, and inevitably refracted through the feminist prism. I still react like litmus paper to her more extreme theories, such as planned *single*-parenthood for women who don't want a man about the house, and suspect she would be equally shocked if I did otherwise.

There is no cosy ending to this story perhaps there never will be. But I have still a daughter, and a relationship with her, that I care deeply about. And I have still a lot to learn.



Casualties of the cold



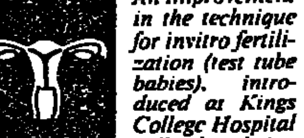
Legend has it that the saintly King Wenceslas needed divine intervention to preserve the circulation in his feet as he braved the ice and snow; for those who have cardiovascular problems, but do not expect a miracle, a few simple precautions will reduce their chance of becoming one of the many casualties of cold weather.

Doctors find that trouble often arises as the patient prepares to go to work, or goes to bed. It is foolhardy for a man with a poor coronary circulation to leave the warmth of his house for the hard, unaccustomed labour of clearing snow in freezing conditions, and the circulatory strain is increased if he then drives to work in a car colder than the household refrigerator. It the car has to stand outside, the engine and heater should be turned on before it is time to leave.

Strenuous exercise, including sawing logs and wood-chopping, are better avoided in very cold weather, but enough fuel must be brought in during the day so that the warmth of evening fire need not be left for a chilly trip to the coal shed.

Bedrooms should be heated, bedroom windows kept closed, and beds warmed so that the circulation does not have to withstand ice cold sheets.

Invitro innovation



An improvement in the technique for invitro fertilization (test tube babies), introduced at Kings College Hospital will, by being safer and very much cheaper, enable far more women with blocked fallopian tubes to have babies. Two years ago Professor Stuart Campbell, heard of a method of collecting eggs from the human ovary.

It is this idea which has been developed by Professor Campbell and his team so that the procedure can be done as an out-patient. No anaesthetics are needed; and as no hospital beds or operating theatres are used, costs are substantially reduced.

The patient's ovaries are first stimulated by giving a hormone, FSH. Later a second hormone, HCG precipitates ovulation; exactly 35 hours after this hormone has been given a woman is ready to have three or four eggs aspirated from her ovary. She is seen in a sterile room where, under ultrasound surveillance, a needle is guided through the abdominal wall and bladder to the egg. Fifty hours later the woman returns, again as an out-patient, to have the fertilized eggs, embryos, implanted in her uterus.

The method is simple, safe and quick: it has not produced any side effects, other than an occasional trace of blood in the first specimen of urine passed after the eggs have been collected. It does of necessity rely upon a highly trained team.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Poultry poison



However distressing the emotional trials which the heads of state may have had to bear at the European Community Summit in Athens, they can not have been more trying than the physical problems they had to overcome at the meeting two years ago, when over 500 people were afflicted with food poisoning. This incident has been used to illustrate the perils of institutional cooking and the need for care when cooking the Christmas dinner.

Poultry is notorious for spreading gastrointestinal infections, particularly salmonella and camphylobacteria, for however careful the butcher, the bird is likely to be contaminated by spilt intestinal contents.

It is important that frozen poultry is completely unthawed before cooking and that uncooked meat of whatever sort is not put in the same refrigerator as cooked food, or allowed to come in contact with it. Hands and kitchen utensils should be washed thoroughly after handling meat or poultry.

Several attacks of food poisoning have been traced to the habit of carving on the kitchen chopping board rather than in the dining room.

Knee surgery



This month the first of this year's skiers will hobble along to their doctors complaining that their knees click, lock, or are just swollen and painful; they will join the injured from the football field already on a waiting list for menisectomy, the operation for removal of the whole damaged cartilage.

A recent review questions whether the development of the arthroscope, an illuminated viewing tube, now renders this operation obsolete for most cases. Although surgeons have, since the First World War, been able to look into the knee joint with an arthroscope, it has only become established as a diagnostic procedure in the last 20 years, and only within the last decade have advances in instrument design enabled surgeons to develop techniques of operating on the cartilage under direct vision.

Once these very difficult techniques have been mastered, a skilled surgeon is usually able to achieve a better result by removing only the damaged portion of the cartilage. He can do this through the comparatively small incision needed for the passage of his instruments rather than by opening up the whole joint.

The new operation can be done in a day surgical unit.

Beating asthma



As more women return to work after childbirth, the date of delivery becomes of economic as well as social importance. But however assiduously couples study calendars, charts, and diaries, the timing of conception remains difficult so that babies are still apt to be born before the firm's busiest time.

A report suggests that there are rather better reasons for careful planning of birthdays than the firm's holiday schedule or a misplaced belief in horoscopes. The season of a baby's birth can have a marked effect on its chances of developing a common form of allergic asthma due to a sensibility to housemites.

The study shows that children born in the summer and autumn are more likely to suffer from allergic diseases due to housemites, one of the commoner causes of asthmatic wheezing and nasal snuffling: problems which, once initiated, may persist throughout life.

Even in the cleanest house mites are abundant between May and September; since babies are more easily sensitized to an allergy in the first six months of life than at other ages, parents with a strong family history of allergy might be wise to plan for a winter or spring child.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

TALKBACK

Backing the Bill

From Julia Neuberger, 36 Orlando Road, London SW4

One important section was omitted from my article on the Sex Equality Bill (Comment, Friday Page, December 9), which led to an incorrect expression of my views. Although in the context of the Bill itself I thought homosexuals should not have been included, I am convinced that there should be anti-discrimination legislation which would tackle the needs of a group which suffers from considerable prejudice and disadvantage.

The Sex Equality Bill's failure points yet again to the urgent need for a Bill of Rights which would at the very least incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights.

Suttee purpose

From Elizabeth Sulivan, Benton Castle, Milford Haven, Dyfed

When I was a child in India 60 years ago the practice of Suttee was still prevalent, despite the edict of the British Raj that it was unlawful.

Perhaps, with regard to the article on widows, (Monday Page, December 12) and bearing in mind the status of these ladies in an Indian household, this practice was not as barbaric as the western mind thought.

Apart from being in the emotional state that death provokes, they were generally heavily drugged before throwing themselves onto the flames.

THE TIMES DIARY

Cheque mate

Peter Kellner, political editor of the *New Statesman*, was experiencing some delay earlier this year in receiving a £50 fee from TV-am. Every time he complained, he was told the computer had broken down, his cheque was awaiting signature, that sort of thing. He mentioned this problem to Peter Jay, former chief executive of TV-am, when both political pundits were appearing on Channel 4's *A Week in Politics*.

Jay suggested a solution: Kellner should threaten to petition to have the company wound up if it didn't pay the debt. Kellner promptly rang the secretary involved and said: "Tell your boss that if I don't have the cheque by the end of the day, I'll wind up his company."

The cheque was waiting for him at the reception desk at 5.30 pm. TV-am show no hard feelings – shortly afterwards they rang up Kellner at 4 am to ask him to appear on that morning's show...

Special delivery

No wonder trade unionists are attempting quick getaways when they see a gentleman with a large legal document in his hand moving towards them. This week, the cost of sealing a writ in the Supreme Court went up from £50 to £55. This cost is passed on to whomsoever received the writ in the first place should he of she lose the subsequent court case.

Doleful

Matthew Parris, formerly a member of Mrs Thatcher's private office and now MP for Derbyshire West, recently completed filming a *World in Action* programme. In it, he tries to discover at first hand what life is like when you're on the dole. The programme was provisionally scheduled for next week but has now been withdrawn. Granada Television, which makes *World in Action*, was reluctant to give reasons why. Since *World in Action* is off the air after next week, until mid-January, one supposes that the Parris programme must have a certain timeless quality.

Doo-dah day

Lady Olga Maitland's troops and the Greenham Common demonstrators will be joining battle again this Sunday. While demonstrators mass outside the Ministry of Defence, the Maitland contingent will be on the opposite side of the road, each holding a letter of the alphabet which together spell out "Women and families for defence".

Lady Olga's chosen weapon, a flaming sword brandished aloft, will probably not deter the other sort of peace women from attacking her with their latest battle song. It goes something like this:

Olga Maitland will be nuked, doo-dah, doo-dah,
Olga Maitland will be nuked..."
and so on.

BARRY FANTONI



"We're seriously considering putting only one spare room in the fall-out shelter."

Cryptic

Eton College has recently discovered "a few bones" in the crypt beneath the college chapel, not exactly an uncommon location, but the Provost of Eton, Lord Charteris, is concerned because "they are loose and we don't know whose they are". He believes that, rather than being the remains of "some overflogged medieval pupil" they are "the family of one of my Provost predecessors".

● Does David Hockney have the fastest writing hand in the West? In a 30-minute signing session at the Hayward Gallery this week, Hockney managed to sign 142 exhibition catalogues for *Hockney's Photographs*, currently on view there. He also signed two posters, four books and nine postcards.

Off campus

Campus, the right-wing "alternative student magazine", has been banned by the student unions of six universities. It also has its objectors on the right. During the last general election campaign Simon Clark, its publisher and editor, sent 100 issues to Brian Monteith, then chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students. The package was opened by Tim Cowell, assistant director of community affairs at Conservative Central Office, who impounded it and wrote to Clark saying that he wouldn't want the media to associate *Campus* with the Conservative Party. This is a relief since *Campus* favours such things as "The Heterosexual Decadence Club" and video nasties. However, Monteith claims that "the magazine reflects student life far more than Central Office would like to believe."

PHS

House-buying: how the Law Society slipped up again

by Alastair Brett

Now that the Government is expected to take on Austin Mitchell's House Buyers' Bill – designed to weaken the conveyancing monopoly of solicitors – it may be possible for the Law Society to come clean on what actually goes on in many solicitors' offices. To date, the society has been hopelessly ham strung by its inability to acknowledge how much registered conveyancing is done by experienced but unqualified clerks and how conveyancing profits often enable firms to take on other less lucrative, work.

To have to admit that, the society would also concede that bills for registered conveyancing – the easy end of the conveyancing market – are not quite as fair and reasonable to the client as required by law, and that the client may be helping to pay for someone else's services in the overall legal spectrum.

Instead, therefore, of warning that the cost of civil and criminal litigation might rise if profits from conveyancing dry up as a result of Mitchell's Bill the society has had to choose another battleground.

Graham Lee of the society has therefore declared that the Bill which is due to have its second reading in the Commons today, has been appallingly drafted and that consumer protection will be "substantially and seriously reduced" if licensed conveyancers are let loose on the public.

While the Bill clearly has some way to go before it is as watertight as it needs to be, Lee's complaint is yet another example of the overstatement to which the Chancery Lane bureaucracy has recently been prone. Though the door might be opened to an occasional unscrupulous or inefficient conveyancer – just as there is now the occasional unscrupulous or inefficient solicitor — the state of anarchy and lawlessness visualized by the Law Society is most unlikely.

The Society counters the "easy profits" charge by declaring that prices have come down by about 13 per cent in real terms since scale rates were abolished in 1973 after a Prices and Incomes Board report that solicitors were then making too much money out of conveyancing. Even so, the society has recently had to concede that about 87 per cent of the public seem happy with the services provided by their solicitor, at least 40 per cent think that fees are too high, against 39 per cent who think they are not.

Interestingly, the large City firms are not as worried by Mitchell's Bill as the smaller provincial practices. This suggests that the really lucrative work these days – where the depth of the client's pocket largely dictates the size of a bill – is found in the company/commercial field not in home-buying.

The irony is that at the very time the Law Society most needs to demonstrate how good it is at policing its own members and protecting the public against overcharging, it has been rocked by the Glanville Davies scandal, in which it refused to take action against a solicitor and former member of the Law Society council who grossly overcharged a client.

It has also been embarrassed by a call for the resignation of the entire council by the chairman of the British Legal Association on the grounds that it is failing in its duties.

On top of that, the campaign against the conveyancing Bill has been a catalogue of disaster.

The rot set in when Christopher Hewetson, president of The Law Society, wrote a remarkably intemperate letter to the country's 44,000 practising solicitors on November 14 seeking to impose a three-line whip on the profession to help defeat the Bill, but at the same time tacitly admitting that he had not seen the final draft.

He also accused Mitchell and David Tench of the Consumers Association, who had helped draft the Bill, of secrecy over its contents. That in turn led to Tench's accusing the society of "breach of confidence and lack of good faith". Graham Lee made the counter-allegation that the Consumers Association was "disingenuous" and its report on house transfers "inaccurate, misleading, and misguided in many of its conclusions."

Worse was to come, for the methods advocated by the Law Society to defeat the Bill – including putting pressure on Conservative MPs to vote against it and attempts to ensure that MPs in favour are not in the House today – have been reported to the Speaker as a possible breach of parliamentary privilege.

The net result of all this is that relations between the Consumers Association and the Law Society have now reached an all-time low; the society has appeared as the last bastion of vested interest while the Consumers Association has been portrayed as the champion of the people.

As one North Country solicitor put it: "The panic language coming out of Chancery Lane is quite indefensible. It has not only embarrassed the profession but has made it look little better than the most reactionary element of the trade union movement."

But leaving aside the Law Society's banana skin path, if Mitchell's Bill gets the successful second reading which it deserves, or the Government takes over the Bill, the society must rise to the challenge. It must put its own house in order and, given the likelihood of the Bill's becoming law, help its members persuade the public to their viewpoint: that solicitors' offices rather than building societies, banks or licensed conveyancers still offer the safest, most reliable and fastest service in house-buying business, and, most importantly, at a reasonable price.

The author is a solicitor and a legal adviser to The Times.

Roger Boyes reports on Lech Walesa's plans to profit from government failures

Poland: hope behind the price rises



Gdansk queue: despite expectations engendered by the authorities, Poles still have to wait up to two hours to buy basic foods

Warsaw
Today, the thirteenth anniversary of the shooting of Polish workers during riots on the Baltic coast, Lech Walesa is expected to put forward a new programme of opposition. He intends, unless his freedom of movement is again curtailed, to visit the crosses at the Lenin Shipyard which mark the death of those workers, to describe his vision of the future. It is likely to concentrate on discussion, on cementing links between workers and intellectuals and on harnessing people's anger.

The game, Walesa believes, is no longer about winning or losing, but rather working out ways that will make it easier for the government to adopt parts of the Solidarity vision. This is not a struggle that has to be fought on the streets, but rather on the factory floor.

The authorities have tried three principal ways of guaranteeing calm in the country and among the working class. The sum of the strategies is known as "normalization", a technique which in post-1968 Czechoslovakia bought a kind of graveyard peace, and which in post-1956 Hungary brought a couple of years of security police terror and then gradual relaxation. The first instrument is to purchase the compliance of those workers with the strongest industrial muscle – above all the coalminers. They have double pay (though often only after working on Saturdays), double rations and special shops.

Solidarity activists from Gdansk have been trying to end the privileged isolation of the miners, however, to establish links between the fortresses of labour. In Silesia people are still sceptical of everything and everybody: of the government, of the Warsaw-controlled underground and of their bosses. But there is an uneasiness that has not dissolved with the recent announcement of an extra two kilos of butter a month for face workers.

The second line of normalization is to create groups and new unions which can lay claim to speaking for the working class. The goal is that workers will join these new pro-government unions, speak their grievances to the officials, have them translated into salon-language, then wait for the results. But the unions, though they are indeed passing complaints on to the management, are at the same time usually obliged to accept the management refusal and to translate this into language acceptable to the workers.

Perhaps, they say, when national federations are established and become active next year, perhaps then we can fight hard. But nobody much believes in this "perhaps". The new unions were not even consulted in advance before the renewed rationing of butter, and this fact alone condemns them in the eyes of many who remember Solidarity demands.

The third instrument of normalization is the banning of intellectual associations that could form platforms of opposition. The intellectuals - who are often as badly off as the workers – a part-time university lecturer will receive 80 zloties an hour, barely enough for a coffee and a bun – have returned to their more limited circles, often based on friendships formed in the years of student upheaval in 1968.

An underground university gives lectures, holds debates in private apartments about the future of nuclear disarmament, invites unpublished poets to recite, and cabaret singers to perform.

The linkages between the intellectuals and the worker radicals are holding up, but they are under strain. Intellectual oppositon and factory protests are taking their separate routes, and this must be ranked as one of the few successes of "normalization".

Food prices will be increased next month and it is clear that there is a groundswell of frustration in Poland seeking an outlet. Take the case of a car factory assembly worker, who after deductions earns about 12,000 zloties a month (about £85). His wife, who has to work, earns 7,000 zloties (£50) a month as a part-time secretary. Allowances for their two children bring the net income to something over 20,000 zloties (£140) a month – well above the national average and enough, given low rents, to survive.

That survival, however, is bought at considerable emotional and physical pressure – on the wife, who has to queue perhaps two hours a day after work for basic foods, and on the husband who has to work overtime and spend his free time arranging for the delivery of a part for the washing machine through the friend of a friend.

All around them prices, not just for food, are soaring, luxuries have been trimmed from their lives and any large purchase – a pair of children's shoes – has to be planned two months ahead. Food prices aggravate their situation, but their lives are not as intolerable as that of old age pensioners, single-parent families and the poorer paid. Yet it is the skilled workers who have traditionally revolted first, and put so much force behind their demands that governments have crumpled or reversed their policies.

The problem is now one of expectations. By its persistent propaganda of sacrifice, the government has tried to reduce these expectations. But the skilled worker remembers from the early Gierek years what a government can offer – oranges in the shops, well-stocked supermarkets, services that work. And Solidarity has taught him that he has a responsibility for those workers who are less well off – working in the health service, for example.

The hope of the Solidarity leadership is that connexions made during the Solidarity era will be fused again in discontent at the food price rises. Mr Walesa shares this hope, although neither the underground nor the overground expects a huge popular explosion as experienced in 1970 or 1980. But they understand the workers, and the workers understand their power.

If the car worker goes on the streets, he risks losing his job or being arrested. If he stays at his workplace and simply stops work, no riot police in the world could persuade him to take up his tools again. The food price rises thus give the underground an opportunity to test out their industrial muscle, to assess the nature of their support and the level of frustrations.

The government, of course, hopes to test this feeling in an institutionally acceptable way. Questionnires have been circulated among factories asking the workers for their opinions about price rises. The replies – the first have already been received – are evidently unprintable in the main. Most respondents have not answered question seven – name, address, workplace – and most, it is clear, see no point in price rises at all.

This is the central failure of normalization: the sacrifices demanded in the name of economic reform have not been matched by rewards. The sole observable improvement in the economy has been a better flow in the supply of staples – bread, fat or washing powder. But even this tentative achievement has been undermined by the arbitrary announcement of butter rationing, the confession of serious meat shortages, and the visible absence of things that matter, such as toys before Christmas.

Following the code of Hammurabi, which declared that royal physicians should lose their lives when Assyrian rulers died, the heads of Polish economic ministers and advisers have been rolling. None of this impresses. The facts are clear enough to a factory worker: the standard of living is plummeting, economic reform is bringing only higher prices and he is seized by a sense of impotence. It will be a hard winter for the Poles.

Flying into extinction



by Tony Samstag

At this time every year a group of birdwatchers assembles in an Indian swamp to squelch and scramble through another of those obscure rituals that mark the conservationists' season. They are counting Siberian cranes, a species celebrated by ancient Persian poets as "the Great Northern Princess" and now more likely to be shot out of the sky and roasted for dinner.

At most, only 200 are left in the wild. A "western flock" of birds breeds in the Soviet tundra and migrates 6,000 miles to wintering grounds at a bird sanctuary near Bharatpur in northern India while the larger eastern flock more sensibly opts for the Yangtze River in China.

With that unerring instinct for self-destruction characteristic of so many endangered species, the western flock flies straight across the most turbulent areas of Iran and Afghanistan, where trigger-happy soldiers find the large, slow-flying birds irresistible for target practice and the pot.

Meanwhile villagers in northern Pakistan and the Punjab have taken to crane-hunting.

Nearly 6,000 cranes are held in captivity, according to the World Wildlife Fund, most of them demoiselle or common cranes. Some of them act as decoys to attract the migrants, which are caught in flight by teams of hunters using *soias*, crude flying snares of lead-weighted cords. In skilled hands, a *soia* can bring down a crane from 100ft. More happily, recent reports suggest that some of the birds, their wings clipped to prevent escape, have adapted surprisingly well to their homes and have bred.

Other, more orthodox captive-breeding programmes have been supplemented with a range of weird and wonderful experiments: eggs produced by captive cranes have been distributed among nests in the northern tundra, and small radio transmitters have been fitted to the birds' legs to help scientists trace the vicissitudes of migration. Some Indian conservationists are convinced, however, that it is too late to save the western flock, which could cease to migrate altogether by the end of the century. "The increasing number of obstacles the birds meet in their flight south – hunters, new industrialized areas, the disappearance of water-holes – will finally stop the migration and the cranes will be condemned to die from the cold in Siberia", the Indian Association for the Protection of Nature warned earlier this year.

The World Wildlife Fund believes seven of the 15 species of crane to be in danger of extinction, primarily because so many of their wetland habitats have been destroyed. Several species have recovered spectacularly after becoming national *causes célèbres*, among them the American whooping crane and the Manchurian, or red crest, crane of Japan. But as marshlands in eastern Hokkaido continue to be drained, this bird's future still hangs in the balance.

Though few Japanese have ever seen a live *tancho* its potency as a symbol in contemporary Japan is such that it crops up everywhere, from wedding gowns to the national airline. The ultimate humiliation for a dying species, surely, to serve as decoration for the forces that are wiping it out.

David Watt

Radical – but in a traditional way

This year's Reith lecturer, Sir Douglas Wass, whose *Machinery of Government* series is now complete, has had a pretty mixed press. The critics have got their knife into him for excessive caution and particularly for having treated the open government issue in such a way as to leave the last *arcana* of government inviolate to Fleet Street.

This criticism seems to me to miss the target. I found the lectures marvellously lucid and surprisingly radical. Of course, if the BBC or anyone else expected a man who has been Permanent Head of the Treasury for the last nine years and who retired from that eminence less than a year ago, to trumpet forth fashionable conclusions like "What's wrong with Whitehall is the Civil Service", they were out of their minds. Sir Douglas is one of the best of his kind – a very clever generalist with a detached and subtle mind – but he has, like all of us, professional deformations which include an aversion to chopping one's own profession.

But the striking thing about the Wass diagnosis and prescription is that if one compares it with what is supposed to be the last word in fearless, anti-Establishment radicalism, in Sir John Hoskyns's recent diatribes, the two are remarkably close. The Hoskyns proposition, put alongside their Wass "equivalents" are as follows.

● **Hoskyns:** The Prime Minister should no longer be restricted to the small pool of career politicians in Westminster in forming a government.

Wass: Not dealt with directly, but no obvious objections provided (a) that the newcomers have sufficient parliamentary acceptability to be effective and (b) that there is no attempt to introduce a system of ministerial "overlords" such as Churchill tried unsucessfully in 1951.

● **Hoskyns:** Whitehall must be organized for strategy and innovation as well as for day to day survival.

Wass: Quite agree. Essential that ministers should have collectively an alternative appraisal to the one provided by the colleague putting forward the proposal. We must resurrect and greatly strengthen the Central Policy Review Staff (or think tank) to be the servant of the Cabinet as a whole.

● **Hoskyns:** It must be possible to bring adequate numbers of high-quality outsiders into the Civil Service.

Wass: Hm! In favour of specialist (political) advisers and secondments, sabbaticals etc for normal civil servants to prevent their getting too inward-looking. But completely opposed to an American "spoils" system or indeed to the politicization of the career civil service.

● **Hoskyns:** The workload of ministers must be reduced.

Wass: Sympathetic to the problem and even attracted by the idea of a small "War" Cabinet without portfolios (as in 1916 to 1918) but reluctantly forced to Churchill's conclusion that it is only by being involved in everyday issues that people can identify the longer-term general problems and construct suitable solutions.

It will be seen from this catalogue that with the exception of the (admittedly important) item about the Civil Service as such, the mandarin does not find much to disagree with in the truculent outsider's approach.

What we are seeing here is something not so far from a consensus of the need for a reform of Whitehall – a consensus which is not so surprising when you think that a debate has been going on now, virtually uninterrupted, for nearly 20 years against a background of almost unremitting national decline. Even I dare not think how many dozens of articles I have written on the subject since the Fulton Report came out in 1967. Where we have got to at the end of all this is that everyone, or almost everyone, is agreed that the present system of public administration does not produce enough of three commodities – imagination, strategic planning, and energy.

Likewise everyone, or virtually everyone, agrees that while the existing bureaucratic machinery can and should be rejigged to encourage these things, the main requirement is the infusion of new blood into the system. The outstanding question, and the one that divides Hoskyns from Wass, is where this new blood should come from and which vessels it should be pumped through. Hoskyns, in effect, wants more outsiders, especially businessmen, at a ministerial level in government and more outsiders actually inserted into the administrative machine, presumably a politicial initiative. Wass and other Civil Service apologist like Lord Bancroft would actually welcome brighter, fresher politicians and would like to bring in new perspectives to the existing bureaucracy, but are sceptical of non-political, "amateur" politicians, and are determined to resist any upsetting of the "the career" or making the Civil Service more "political."

This is an argument in which, it seems to me, both sides need to modify their position. It must be right (*pace* Hoskyns) that political skills are a necessary if not quite a sufficient condition of being a minister in a modern democracy. On the other hand, some further rejuvenation of the present Civil Service is essential and I don't see, anywhere, in the Reith Lectures, a serious proposal for bringing it about. What about the continental system of ministerial *cabinets*? Or what (to be a bit more brutal) about making it easier, or indeed possible, to sack civil servants?

But the main thing that strikes me about the whole argument after all this time, is how narrow, in a way, it is. National revival depends on the national spirit, which is in itself dependent on a huge variety of factors – basic education, industrial tranining, the nature of the class system, housing mobility, the modernization of trade unions, the relationship of central to local government, and above all the flexibility of the political system itself.

The reorganization of central government is not necessarily the most important key to all these changes. If these changes could be brought about independently, the reorganization of the centre would immediately become far easier. This is not just a question of mechanical connexion, such as the Social Democrat and Liberal claim that a reform of the electoral system would bring outsiders into government by the political route and establish more administrative continuity. They may or may not be right about that. What matters is that the entire polity and the entire economy together should be more responsive and more supple. A change in the central government will help this process along but the process itself is what is going to change central government.

Philip Howard

Fasten seat belts... the lodger replies

The lodger strikes back. Those of you who have been following this landlord-tenant drama can take a paragraph of time off to meditate beautiful thoughts, while I Jingle newcomers up to date. Lodger – airline pilot – turfed out of London pied-à-terre on the road to Heathrow – comes to stay with us – shows no inclination to pay rent, in spite of laboured hints – sent to charm school by his employer – slagged by landlord *in his column in The Times*. You get the picture?

The lodger claims the right to reply. I suppose so, depending on the quality of the piece, and provided that it is not taken as a contribution in lieu of rent. Here it is, with the grammar and spelling tidied up, and (if you will believe it) the wetter attempts at jokes dried out, sharpened up, or deleted.

"Contrary to the landlord's scurrilous assertion, I am not nearly as old or as smelly as his dogs." (Beagles, actually, ergo hounds, dumb). "As for his comparison to Polyphemus: I have two eyes, an advantage in the trade of pilot. However, when I stay with the landlord, my room is a cave in the basement below stairs. So I suppose the comparison is not wholly inapt.

"In order to keep literary pace with my erudite (sic) host (sic), I looked in his dictionary of quotations under **landlord** for other men's flowers to decorate my prose, after his fashion. I could find only two. Shaw said, 'If you are going to have a landlord, you had better have a rich landlord'. This seems impertinent and inappropriate.

"The only other landlord quotation is Charles Lamb's versicle:

If ever I marry a wife,
I'll marry a landlord's daughter,
For then I may sit in the bar,
And drink cold brandy and water.

"I once persuaded the current admirer of Juliette, the landlord's daughter, that an ancient oil stove with a porthole was a television set. He wondered why his eyebrows were singed when he turned up the volume. I don't think Juliette will marry me. In any case, what I learnt on my charm course is bound to bring them running.

(Ed: feeble quotation work, lodger. You should have gone for the Russian proverb, "The only trustworthy landlord is a dead one": or Lloyd George's Limehouse speech. "Who is the landlord? The landlord is a gentleman who does not earn his wealth. He does not even take the trouble to receive his wealth. He has a host of people around him to do the actual spending for him . . .")

"Sometimes our roles of landlord and lodger are reversed, when he comes to stay with me in the country. Driven by his wife (he is too idle to learn how to drive, in spite of having been motor transport officer in the Black Watch), in a car that could be an advertisement for the longevity of a well-known Swedish model (maintenance and cleaning unnecessary), the landlord arrives and strides blindly around the Wiltshire Downs in a parody of the eccentric *literato*, book at the high port, dogs waddling behind, villagers gaping because they have seen him being rude on the telly.

"I have no come-back against this performance. A man dressed as a bogus admiral in Ladbroke Grove would be arrested, or impounded until the next Notting Hill Carnival.

"A fiver from each of my friends who has said to me, 'If I hear this is your captain, the lodger, speaking, I'm getting off the plane', and I could afford to pay rent. Consider, next time you fly, that you are connected by a metal tube to two men very anxious about their own survival and well-being. You will arrive intact. And if you are not charmed on the way, you won't come back with us. We try harder."

(Ed: As a hack, the lodger makes a great pilot.)



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WE MEAN WHAT SHE SAYS

By "freezing" the budget rebates to Britain and Germany which were agreed at Stuttgart in June, the European Parliament hopes to put pressure on the Council of Ministers to agree on lasting solutions to the crisis now afflicting the European Community. The Parliament has stopped short of rejecting the budget outright but it has taken action which it hopes will concentrate the minds of member governments and force them to come to terms in the next three months. The intention may be meritorious but the means adopted are neither constructive nor coherent enough for their declared purpose.

The rebate of 750 million ecu (£457 million) due to Britain in 1984 against its over-heavy contributions to the Community's resources in 1983 has been put into what is called the reserve chapter of the Budget. The normal use of the reserve is to receive and hold money in certain cases until such time as the policies for which the money is intended are adopted. It is, in other words, a kind of hypothecated contingency reserve, and when the intended policies are fulfilled, the money is transferred out of it.

In the present instance, a procedure which is part of normal Community financial arrangements is being misused as a political weapon. The Parliament is demanding final decisions on the Community's need to increase its own revenue from member-states, on Britain's and Germany's unfairly high contributions, to these resources, and on agricultural spending. Given such solutions by the end of March, it will release the money. It is not altogether clear whether the money would be released whatever the details of such an agreement, but the presumption is that, above all else, it wants an agreement of some sort by that date, and one that is durable and comprehensive.

This claim to be seeking the long-term solution which the Council of Ministers sought and failed to find at Athens is, on the face of it, in line with Britain's own argument that the crisis has to be settled as a whole and permanently. Yet Parliament's claim to be acting helpfully is hollow since its action discriminates against two individual states, Britain and Germany. In a resolution it passed in November it undertook to avoid such discrimination.

Indeed, logic might suggest that if the object is to force the Council of Ministers to reach agreement it would have been better to reject the Budget altogether. It is tempting to think that if the European Community can only settle its disputes by being brought to a brink, it might be better for it to be brought swiftly to a brink with a terrifying drop rather than to be led haltingly to a number of little brinks which irritate rather than terrify. Yet on balance the British government's view is that it would not have helped the Community at this stage for the Budget to be totally rejected. The result would have been too much damaging dislocation.

Britain's position is that a startling enough brink will be reached anyway when the ceiling of 1 per cent of the VAT–base contributions is reached in 1984. It is going to be impossible to deal with this year's agricultural price negotiations because there will be no money for financing any price increases.

The European Parliament has chosen the end of March for its deadline because the next summit of Ministers will be held earlier that month and because it is the end of our financial year, by which time we require the rebate (and in previous years have got it.) But what if no solution is reached by the Council of Ministers in March? The Parliament may keep the money frozen after its deadline, but if it did it is clear what the British government would and should do.

In Parliament yesterday, the Prime Minister said that in that event we should take action to safeguard our position – a formula she has used before. In plain language, that means we should withold part of our contributions to the Community due for transfer from funds held in London. This action, to compensate for the loss to which Britain was subjected, really would be the brink and Mrs Thatcher will be right to make the Community face it. This must not be bluff and the other member states need to understand that what is said is meant.

WHEN CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES

In peace and war information is power. It has always been so, since long before the age of telex or satellite television broadcasts. It was Aeschylus who first coined the phrase that truth is the first casualty of war, and even Napoleon was heard to observe that "four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets". It is thus the natural instinct of government, at all times, to attempt to harness information to its purposes, and only more so when matters of national security are critically at stake. Journalists are aware that this desire conflicts with the traditional purpose of the press which is, as *The Times* sonorously declared more than 100 years ago, "to obtain the earliest and most correct intelligence of the events of the time, and instantly, by disclosing them, to make them the common property of the nation".

The Beach Committee, whose report on the protection of military information was published yesterday, had to consider the point at which, during an emergency, government, press and people can all roughly agree that the public interest would be better served by some inhibition on the freedom to publish. Most of the British press would accept that, while the public interest is best served by maximum disclosure, this cannot be an absolute condition, since we all recognize that the public interest already requires some statutory restriction on press freedom as, for instance, in the workings of the courts. So the principle does not need to be argued; it is where the line is drawn in the application of that principle that will always, and rightly, provoke argument and concern.

The Committee observed that, in time of tension, it would not be possible to draw a very precise definition of "military information". Moreover, once the general principle had been accepted that some formal system of information control should be introduced in those circumstances, it must be left to the official authorities in the first instance to determine what information they feel needs to be protected from disclosure. Why should they be trusted to carry out such a task benignly? Why should the press and the public not assume that information will more often be withheld for political or bureaucratic convenience, than to save lives? What is to prevent this system being introduced unnecessarily, and then being abused?

These questions can never be answered unequivocally. Such a system, in other words, will only work at all if it starts off on a basis of reasonable trust between public, press and government. That trust should be initially secured by an acceptance that no such arrangement could be introduced until there had been a formal state of emergency, which would anyway involve society in a wide range of consequences of which information control would only be one. Beyond that there would have to be trust by the press, cultivated over years of custom and practice, that the military authorities and their political masters operate a minimalist policy on information control, restricting the flow only when genuine operational needs require it in order to save lives. The more guidance that can be shared between editors and commanders, and the more advanced discussions that can occur on these procedures, the more likely such conditions of trust would prevail.

The general public has to trust its newspapers and the broadcasting media to see that they are vigilant in the public interest, and not just in their own, since the two are not necessarily synonymous. It is salutary, for instance, to see that the Beach Committee recommends some revision in the broadcasting code of violence. The attitude of television to any kind of conflict, from street demonstrations upwards, seems to reveal an obsession with violence, and a determination to film violence and its consequences in all their gory details without much sense of proportion.

The committee says "it is important for public morale that as much news as possible reach the people". We can no longer afford to have commanders like the American admiral whose attitude to information was summed up in the statement: "Don't tell them anything. When its all over tell them who won". The people need the news, even when it is news of a defeat. Any kind of military emergency now so clearly involves the spirit of the whole nation that no operation could be continued for long without public support, and no public support could be sustained for long without information. In the national interest we would accept the principle of censorship during military emergencies, though we would fight hard over the detail of how it was to be applied.

TOO MUCH OF A SNIFF

The conviction this week in Glasgow of the Raja brothers for the sale to children of made-up "kits" for inhaling fumes from solvents has, naturally enough, led to a burst of press and public attention to glue sniffing. Sadly the fashion – for that is what the practice has become among some adolescents – is not new. It has been on the policy agenda for some time, and in a low-key way the Department of Health has taken steps to alert doctors and nurses to its growth and has convened conferences of policemen and researchers; most recently, and not before time, manufacturers of adhesives and retailers have been brought into the talks. This list, however, has a notable omission: parents.

There is a danger in the kind of moral panic seen this week, in the banner headlines, in the enthusiasm of backbench MPs to leap into the legislative swim, in the unfocused demand for action once a social breakdown has been discovered. The danger is that public disgust gets translated all too readily into a demand for the state to intercede, to absolve us all from the consequences of our and our dependents' actions. Manufacturers and retailers of potentially dangerous products (and there is an array of volatile substances on the shelves of newsagents and supermarkets that could be abused) carry responsibility. But sometimes we leap too quickly for the regulatory shackles. One of the blessings of the shift in attitudes in Britain since 1979 is a new consciousness of the limits of governmental action in the social sphere. Glue-sniffing, like the abuse by teenagers of other drugs, alcohol or tobacco, demands action in and by families. The rebuilding of parental responsibility as much as the behavioural problem itself should be the focus of policy.

Over the abuse of solvent based adhesives there must be no complacency. The figures for related deaths and injuries are an undeniable cause for concern, and the Department of Health gave reassuring sign in Mr John Patten's statement yesterday that measures are in hand, albeit within the voluntary framework already established. A programme of education for schools, clinics and shop-keepers is envisaged but the Department is right not to give it the trappings of a crusade and further glamorize the sniffing fashion. Are such measures enough?

It would certainly be wrong to extend the reach of the criminal law to either the act of sniffing or its results (for example new categories of disorderly conduct). The behaviour at issue, Mr Patten noted, varies from being simply a transient phase through which adolescents pass to a sign of a deeper disturbance in personality. Extending the role of social services departments is not required at this point, either. Scottish examples are provocative but have their limits: the Scottish system of children's courts and its tradition of social work perhaps needed the buttress of the specific statute on solvent abuse passed earlier this year.

Yet, as the Government does acknowledge, there may be a case for new law governing the sale of substances with such an obviously harmful effect. The present policy is to pin faith on the cooperation of newsagents and hardware stores which sell glue. The shops concerned are, however, ill-organized; national federations may make injunctions that have no effect in the corner shop. Perhaps the pawky response of the Raja brothers in court – although they knew the commercial benefit of what they were doing, as was illustrated by the fact they kept gallon drums of glue in the basement along with a handy supply of crisp and plastic bags – is the obverse side of that large-scale, and welcome movement of Asian immigrants into small scale retailing.

At present a legal code governs the sale of alcohol to minors; it was recently extended to cover fireworks. Some further extension to cover certain volatile substances used for intoxicating inhalation – they are fairly easy to identify and proscribe – would do no great injury to trade or liberty. Banning the sale of solvents to minors need wreak no great havoc with Airfix construction nor model-building: genuine modellers would need enlist only a parent, other adult or older sibling. The case for such a ban is well worth examining.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Partnership in Antarctica

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article "South Atlantic Partners" (December 10) makes the constructive suggestion that the Falklands and their dependencies could, without any change of sovereignty, be turned into an Anglo-Argentine base for Antarctic exploration and development. But should you not take the proposal further?

Chile, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand also have claims on the Antarctic continent and obvious interests due to geographical proximity.

Could we not develop your concept to include these other interested parties, perhaps at the joint invitation of Britain and Argentina? Other signatories of the Antarctic Treaty might also like to take part.

Once the new airfield on the Falklands is fully developed and the harbour facilities improved, the islands might well prove to be the most convenient base available for Antarctic exploration as well as the meeting ground on which cooperation might resolve existing differences between Britain and the Argentine and the Argentine and Chile.

The Antarctic continent is generally thought to be a prolongation of the Andes and the Southern African plateau. There is, therefore, a distinct possibility that the mineral wealth of both may exist under the permafrost. Discovering it and then extracting it would be a challenging task but no more than landing a man on the Moon.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1.
December 13.

Examination results

From Professor Harvey Goldstein

Sir, The article by Ronald Butt (December 8) and your leader (December 1) on the exam results research of the National Council for Educational Standards (NCES) are critical of Department of Education and Science officials, but avoid the main issue.

The real research interest lies in whether the type of school attended (comprehensive, grammar or secondary modern) affects the examination results of pupils with different individual characteristics and backgrounds. In such analyses it is essential to allow for differences in individual achievement prior to secondary school entry to avoid the possibility that examination result differences are merely reflecting entry selection policies.

The NCES research used school average exam results rather than individual data and had no measures of achievement prior to entry. Such deficiencies make it markedly inferior to the recent National Children's Bureau (NCB) study of examination results which had intake measures on individual children and found few important school type differences.

The recently published criticisms of the NCES research by officials at the DES, which now have been substantiated by analyses in Statistical Bulletin 16/83 (*The Times*, December 10) pointed out that the NCES had made inadequate allowances for social class in studying the variation in examination results between Local Education Authorities. Because their measurements are at school or at LEA level only, however, neither the DES nor the NCES analyses can contribute much of value to the debate over school type comparisons.

If further research is to be funded, then it would be more useful, and cheaper, to exploit the NCB data than to pursue the use of school examination results.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY GOLDSTEIN, Chairman,
Department of Mathematics
Statistics and Computing,
University of London
Institute of Education,
20 Bedford Way, WC1.
December 12.

Calke Abbey

From Mr J. St Bodfan Gruffydd

Sir, What is "heritage landscape"? The Government is in a great muddle over this. Hitherto the Historic Buildings Council has collected information with a view to "listing" historic gardens and parks, while the Countryside Commission dealt with more natural landscapes in national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Gardens and parks are deliberately designed and planned, whereas national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty cover the more natural parts of our countryside. The criteria for judging the two types are distinct and different. In considering the Calke ambience, which is very much garden/park landscape, however, the Secretary of State appears to rely on advice of the Countryside Commission.

The writer was sufficiently concerned to examine the problem carefully on the ground. He found unmistakable evidence of careful planning in the disposition of woods and copses, shelter belts and tree clumps across the farmed land right to distant horizons, deliberately planned as extensions of the park design. In fact, the distant views are vital factors in the protection of the aesthetic of the park immediately surrounding the Abbey.

Nowhere in this beautiful, enclosed landscape is a jarring note to be seen – no pylons, no motorways, no factory farm buildings. Once allow this connected landscape out of the park ownership and there is no saying how soon the beauty and seclusion of this bit of our inheritance might be lost.

The arbitrary delineation of the "heritage landscape" boundaries of Calke Park do more than threaten its viability for, ironically, the inclusion of the (excluded) rented land would go some way to providing necessary endowment for the National Trust.

Yours faithfully,
J. St BODFAN GRUFFYDD,
Black Hill,
Jubilee Drive,
Malvern,
Worcestershire.
December 7.

From Lord Perth

Sir, The correspondence to save Calke Abbey and the adjournment debate in the Commons on December 6 all point to the same conclusion: time is needed to work out a new scheme to preserve the house, its contents and park. And the tax bill is mounting up for the Harpur-Crewe trustees at around £1,300 a day.

Both trustees and Government are in a way to blame, for both took about a year to reach decisions.

Will the Government consider forgoing this sum for, say, four months with a deadline date? By this date a new scheme must be hammered out by one and all concerned, including the Government.

In the words of the Under-Secretary of State for the Environment: "The Government are prepared and willing to listen to and consider positive suggestions".

The deadline should stimulate the quick finding of a scheme to save Calke for future generations. Waiving of interest meantime could be counted as part of the limited public assistance already offered.

Yours truly,
PERTH,
House of Lords.
December 8.

Chilling prospect of a nuclear winter

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, I read with interest David Watt's comments on December 9 about the film *The Day After*, and his speculation on whether the scientific prognosis of a nuclear winter is correct. Having participated in the background research in the United States during the past several months, I do not agree that there are "many uncertainties in the hypothesis" that warrant "understandable caution".

Both the physical and biological teams ran dozens of variations of their computerized models to check their findings, and they concluded that their anaylses were reinforced time after time, with virtually no significant variations in the outcome. Whether we consider a 10,000-megaton or only a 1,000-megaton war, the results produce a nuclear winter. In certain circumstances a mere 100 megatons can trigger a similar phenomenon (Britain possesses more than 100 megatons).

The papers, being published in the major American journal *Science*, have undergone unusually rigorous appraisal through extensive peer review. If one can be permitted the phrase, there is an "overkill" of supporting evidence to justify the findings. Several independent research efforts have come up with parallel results.

To quote the summary of the biological paper, authored by 20 leading scientists from several countries, "It is clear that the ecosystem effects *alone* resulting from a large-scale thermonuclear war could be enough to destroy the current civilisation in at least the northern hemisphere . . . the combined intermediate and long-term effects of nuclear war suggest that eventually there might be no human survivors in the northern hemisphere."

All this reiterates a key question. Can government leaders afford to contine with their present response to the nuclear threat, with the new risks of a nuclear winter – precisely at a time when more weapons are being deployed? Or should they not rather consider the alternative risks of taking a closer look at whatever measures are necessary to throw the nuclear arms race into reverse? Perhaps the prospect of a nuclear winter will help us to achieve at least a nuclear freeze.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN MYERS,
Upper Meadow,
Old Road,
Headington,
Oxford.
December 13.

From Professor Sir Frederick Warner, FRS

Sir, David Watt (December 9) has written about the aftermath of nuclear war and Carl Sagan's comment that the prospect of a "nuclear winter" frightens him more than *The Day After*.

A committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions is engaged in a study of this and longer-term effects than the immediate deaths following a nuclear exchange.

A workshop in Stockholm during November decided to re-examine the scenarios for different scales of nuclear exchange and conduct further research in several countries on atmospheric chemistry, climate change and biological effects. The next, on agriculture, will be in Delhi from February 9 to 11, 1984, and the one after in Leningrad in May.

General planning is being done by a steering group of leading scientists from the USA, USSR, France, Sweden, India and Japan, under my chairmanship. The Royal Society has financed a research assistant to work with me at the Universtiy of Essex, which has provided accommodation.

So far we have not had the "dog fight" nor the pause expected by David Watt. We have had to work hard to provide the discussion papers which scientists need for useful discussions and to start by concentrating limited resources on facts which can be agreed or further explored by experts.

Yours faithfully,
NED WARNER, Treasurer,
Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment,
As from: Chemistry Department,
Essex University,
Wivenhoe Park,
Colchester, Essex.
December 9.

Housing priority

From Mr Charles Williams

Sir, Jamie Stevenson (Whitehall Notebook, December 7) is less than fair to the Department of the Environment. Regrettably the Treasury has not accorded public-sector housing investment, whether on new dwellings or improvements, the priority it deserves.

Patrick Jenkin and his predecessors at the DoE have, however, consistently encouraged councils to dispose of assets, council houses or land, pointing out that the more they sell the more they have to spend on additional investment. Some councils have significantly increased their housing expenditure by the use of capital receipts in this way.

Unfortunately the Government does not apply to its own transactions the same policy as it applies to local authorities. The Chancellor made it clear in his autumn statement that the Government will be increasing significantly the sale of assets, mainly shares in state corporations.

Such sales of assets will not in any way be linked to increased investment; indeed the main use to which this finance will be put appears to be social security. Asset sales no longer are received as rapturously in the City as once they were; they are increasingly seen as a way of massaging the public-sector borrowing requirement.

By contrast, a policy of linking increased asset sales with increased investment in those facilities which only the public sector can provide would seem logical to the financial community and would instil greater confidence in the Government's handling of the economy.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES WILLIAMS,
National Council of Building Material Producers,
33 Alfred Place, WC1.
December 8.

Archive uncertainty

From Mr Victor Gray

Sir, Mr Murray (December 6) does well to draw the attention of your readers to the fate of the Greater London Record Office, whatever that fate may be. So far not a whisper has emerged from Whitehall to expand upon the "special provisions" so coyly promised in the White Paper, *Streamlining the Cities*.

It is to be earnestly hoped that, whatever plans may emerge for the administration of GLRO, they will involve no thought of dismembering the tremendously rich and important collection or archives for the history of London, so assiduously built up over three quarters of a century. Such a scattering could only be considered by anyone with a modicum of interest in the history of the capital as an act of the grossest vandalism.

It is surely unthinkable that London should have no repository specifically and wholly devoted to the safe-keeping of its written history.

At the same time, historians of English provincial history would be advised to consider the effect of the Government's proposals on archive services within the metropolitan counties. Here the Government's thoughts on the future seem equally vague, involving the devolution of collections to one of the districts and calling for co-operative ventures between district councils.

It does seem that archives, like other areas of cultural service highlighted in your columns over recent weeks, are to be dragged by the scruff of their neck and squeezed into the new pattern. So be it. But let no one pretend that what comes out at the end of the day will be better or even as good as present arrangements; or that an equivalent service will be provided more cheaply; or that the arrangement will be more rational. Certainly, let no one suggest that it is streamlining!

Yours sincerely,
VICTOR GRAY,
Association of County Archivists,
As from: Essex Record Office,
County Hall,
Chelmsford,
Essex.
December 8.

Law of Sea Treaty

From Mr Peter Farr

Sir, May I underline the argument of the President of the General Council of British Shipping (November 16)? This country, with a handful of others, hesitates to sign the Law of the Sea Treaty because of the (admitted) imperfections of the clauses governing seabed mining.

The economic and commercial arguments for proceeding with the mining of deep-sea nodules at any time in this century are looking less and less plausible, however optimistic a view is taken of the prospects for general economic recovery.

During the last few years, the intensity-of-use of the basic industrial metals (the quantity needed for each unit of GDP) has fallen sharply. Some decline has historically happened in advanced economies and mature markets; the recent fall has, however, gone further and more quickly than the historical trend.

The inevitable consequence of this is that forecasts of demand for metals must be lowered.

We have in fact already seen this in the case of steel. As recently as 18 months ago, world demand for crude steel in 1990 was confidently forecast to be around 1,000 million tonnes; few authorities now expect it to be much over 800 million. Forecasts for consumption of manganese (which is wholly dependent on crude steel output) must consequently be lowered.

The economics of nodule mining depend on the existence of secure markets for all three major nodule constituents – cobalt, nickel and manganese. If demand for any one of them is as insecure as is that for manganese the economic case for nodule mining fails. Is it not therefore time for this country to cease obstructing the interests of those – such as the shipowners – for whom the Law of the Sea Treaty is of immediate and pressing concern?

Yours faithfully,
PETER FARR,
O.W. Roskill Industrial Consultants,
2 Clapham Road, SW9.
November 21.

State subsidies for the arts

From Mr Robert Jackson, MP for Wantage (Conservative)

Sir, Frank Johnson (December 13) quotes Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP, asking the familiar question about the arts, "why is it so essential to civilization for the taxpayer to subsidize activities which are so unpopular with the majority of the public?" Let me try to answer.

From an economic point of view the live performing arts are an activity in which technology is static, so that labour productivity cannot be improved in line with advances in the surrounding economy. It takes just as long, and requires exactly the same equipment and labour, to play a Beethoven symphony today as it did when the work was first performed in 1810. But because the wages paid to non-volunteer musicians inevitably reflect the higher wage levels made possible since that time by technical progress elsewhere in the economy, activities which may have been viable in the market place in 1810 have long since ceased to be so (and even at that time they enjoyed special patronage).

Nevertheless, while the technology of performance has stood still, there has been great technical progress in the communication of performance: radio, gramophone records, television, video. The economic value to Britain of these technologies is indisputable: exports of films and television programmes in 1981 were worth £144m and in the same year earned £30m. There are also the earnings from tourism. Excellence in the live performing arts is essential to the vitality of these industries.

However, because of economic specialization there is no inbuilt mechanism, with the notable exception of the BBC, by which profits earned by communication are directed to nourishing the culture of performance upon which those profits depend. This is why live performance has come to rely on the transfer through state subsidy of a small portion of the taxes levied on those profits.

Of course we have to make decisions, which will be essentially arbitrary, about how much to spend on state subsidies to the arts, just as Prince Esterhazy had to allocate resources between his Kappellmeister and his kitchen. But in a truly educated society it would not be necessary to deploy the sort of means/ends argument of this letter to justify support for activities which are an end in themselves and in the enhancement of the life of all they touch.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT JACKSON,
House of Commons.
December 15.

Prosecution by stores

From Mr Recorder C. W. L. Jervis

Sir, Parliament can so easily create the simple and absolute (i.e., without proof of dishonesty) offence of taking goods from a shop without payment and make it triable only before magistrates. If such an offence is allowed to run side by side with theft, the prosecutor has a choice.

The real thieves are charged with theft; the absent-minded old folk with the lesser offence to which they can plead guilty without fear of social disgrace and take care not to do it again. Much distress and public expense will thereby be saved.

Yours faithfully
C. W. L. JERVIS,
Rôs-Vale,
St Buryan,
Penzance,
Cornwall.
December 9.

Missing the bus

From Mrs Fiona E. Hamilton

Sir, May I suggest that a possible solution to the plight of the villagers of Swanton Morley (report, December 9) might be the operation of a route taxi system?

As practised in some parts of the West Indies, this consists of a number of taxis licensed to operate on certain agreed routes, with prefixed fares per seat per journey. In this way the cost per person is kept down to a reasonable level and the taxi drivers can be expected to be quick to establish when there is the greatest demand.

Yours faithfully,
FIONA E. HAMILTON,
6 Redburn Street, SW3.
December 9.

A fine point

From Mr P. J. Bourke

Sir, Are not an injunction to stop violent protest by CND at Greenham Common, and fines if they do not, as justified and necessary as those against the NGA at Warrington?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. BOURKE,
Waverley,
Pickler's Hill,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.
December 12.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 15: The Hon S. Joyal (Secretary of State, Canada) had the honour of being received by The Queen this morning.

His Excellency Monsieur Ely Ould Allaf was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following member of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Monsieur Sid'El Mehdi (Second Councellor, Chief of Protocol).

Madame Allaf had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Antony Acland (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr Derek Oulton (Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department) had the honour of being received by The Queen.

His Excellency the Hon Sir Victor Garland and Lady Garland were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Australia in London.

The Queen this afternoon visited Her Majesty's Customs and Excise at King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London, EC3.

Having been received by the Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise (Mr A. M. Fraser), Her Majesty toured the Tercentary Exhibition and met members of the staff.

Lady Susan Hussey, Mr Robert Fellowes and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Wigton Station in the Royal Train this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cumbria (Sir Charles Graham, Bt).

His Royal Highness then visited the premises of British Sidac Ltd (Managing Director, Mr W. Lowther) and, after opening the Sales and Marketing Office Block, toured the Cellulose Film Plant and was entertained at luncheon.

After luncheon, The Duke of Edinburgh visited St Cuthbert's Boys Club (Founder and Leader, Sister Philomena).

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended a Service in Carlisle Cathedral in aid of the Restoration Appeal and was received by the Dean (the Very Reverend J. H. Churchill).

His Royal Highness later opened the Kinmont Barn senior citizens meeting place in Carlisle.

Lieutenant-Commander Andrew Wynn, RN was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, President of the Save the Children Fund, this afternoon, on behalf of the Fund, accepted a motor car from the Ford Motor Company at the Save the Children Fund Headquarters, Mary Datchelor House, London, SE5.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gibbs was in attendance.

The Queen was represented by the Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting) at the Memorial Service for Sir Tom Hickinbotham (formerly Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Aden) which was held in the Chapel of St Michael and St George, St. Paul's Cathedral this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Sir Charles Alexander, (Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights) at the Memorial Service for Sir John Fisher which was held at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall this morning.

By command of the Queen, the Baroness Trumpington, (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the departure of the President of the Lebanese Republic and bade farewell to his excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 15: The Prince of Wales this evening gave a reception at Kensington Palace in aid of The Prince of Wales's Award for Industrial Innovation and Production.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 15: The Duke of Gloucester this morning visited Westbury and District Hospital and later opened Laverton Almshouses, Westbury, Wiltshire.

His Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 15: The Duke of Kent, a Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference (UK Fund), this morning attended a Meeting of the Trustees which was held at 18 Welbeck Way, London W1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 15: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon visited St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham, London SE26.

Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

In the evening, Her Royal Highness and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present at the Olympia International Show Jumping Championships.

The Princess of Wales will open the new Extra Care Centre at Abbeyfield Downing House, Withington, Manchester, on December 20.

The Duchess of Kent will visit the Norwich Institution for the Blind, Norwich on January 10.

A memorial service for the Hon Denis Berry will be held today at 11.30 at the Grand Priory Church, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell



The Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire who yesterday married Linda, Viscountess Bridport at Basingstoke Register Office, Hampshire. The earl lives at Charlton Park, Malmsbury, Wiltshire and the bride's family home is at Nutley, Hampshire. It is the earl's third marriage.

Memorial services

Sir John and Lady Fisher
The Duke of Edinburgh, Permanent Master of the Shipwrights' Company, was represented by the Prime Warden, Sir Charles Alexander, at a memorial service for Sir John and Lady Fisher held yesterday at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall. The Rev Basil Watson officiated. Mr R. W. Tookey, President of the General Council of British Shipping, and Mr David Clarabut read the lessons. Mr William Eccles, Chairman and Chief Executive of James Fisher and Sons, gave an address and Miss Lilli Palmer paid a tribute. Among others present were:

Major and Mrs Gregory Blaxland, Mrs Bray, Dr Janet Earl, Mr Andrew Earl, Miss Margaret Earl, Mr G Finn, Mrs Layburn, Mrs D Stokes, Mr A Stokes, Miss J Stokes, Mr P Stokes, Mr R Stokes, Mrs M Stokes, Mrs J Stumpe, Mr and Mrs R G R Turner, Mrs M Roberts.

Mr J R Oldfield (representing the Netherlands Ambassador and Cumbria County Council), Viscount Leathers, Viscount Runciman of Doxford, Viscount Simon, Sir John Nicholson, Sir Eric Yarrow, Sir Ralph Southward, Sir Leslie Bowes, Mr Patrick Shovelton (director-general, General Council of British Shipping), Rear-Admiral M Morgan-Giles (Warden, Shipwrights' Company) with Mr C H Bayliss (clerk); Alderman and Sheriff R C L Charvet, Mr Carron Greig (chairman, Baltic Exchange), Rear-Admiral and Mrs A J Cooke, Dr Denis Rebbeck.

Mrs William Eccles, Mr G Lowery, Mr D M Jackson, Mr Andrew Watson, Mr S G Barned, Mr H G Davy, Mr Derek Kimber, Mr Jack Neary, Mrs A Dickson, Mr and Mrs C P Boas, Mr and Mrs J Posner, Commander L J Hayward, Mrs David Clarabut, Colonel Garven Fish, Mr F Everard, Mr and Mrs W D Everard, Mrs Ethel Casebow (managing director, F T Everard and Sons), Mr F Michael Everard, Mr John G M Hart (OBA Group BV Amsterdam) and Mrs Hart, Mr H A Packett (Central Table Tennis League) and Mrs S Rolland.

Sir Tom Hickinbotham
The Queen was represented by Baroness Trumpington at a memorial service for Sir Tom Hickinbotham held yesterday in the Chapel of St Michael and St George, St Paul's Cathedral. The Dean of St Paul's officiated, assisted by the Rev Philip Buckler. Canon Graham Routledge read the lesson and Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Hickinbotham, nephew, gave an address. The Sultan of Oman was represented by Brigadier J. T. W. Landon. Others present included:

Mrs Elsie Andrews (sister), Mr and Mrs C F Roberts (brother-in-law and sister), Mr and Mrs Robert Mitchell, Mr and Mrs I P F Roberts, Miss Elaine Andrews, the Rev David Clendon, Dr Phyllis Clendon, Mrs R Vickery, Dr and Mrs J P Hickinbotham, Dr and Mrs Bruce Ponder, William Ponder, Mr and Mrs Hugh Roberts, Mr A G Hickinbotham, Mrs Susan Hickinbotham, Ian Hickinbotham, Miss Susanna Hickinbotham, Mrs C J Hickinbotham and other members of the family.

The Earl of Ranfurly, Mr James Ramsden, Sir Edwin Arrowsmith (representing the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), Sir Stephen Miller, Sir Hugh Mackay-Tallack, Sir John Cotton (president, Indian Political Service Association) with Mr Arthur Wooller, Major-General Sir Nigel Tapp, Sir William and Lady Stimmings, Sir Charles Johnston, Mr Keith Haskell (representing the Diplomatic Service), Mr A J V Arthur, Mr Joseph Rank, Mr R Leigh-Wood, Mr M C E Sharp, Miss L Henderson (matron, London Clinic), Mr Michael J Wise (secretary, National Association of British and Irish Millers) with Mr Philip Neill, Mr Ronald Daubeny, Mr Giles Daubeny, Mr R Tatton-Brown and Mr G Tatton-Brown.

Luncheon

Royal College of Surgeons of England
Professor Geoffrey Slaney, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, yesterday entertained at luncheon at the college Sir Austin Bide, Mr James G. Gulliver, Mr Robert Maxwell and Professor Harold Ellis.

Dinners

HM Government
Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a dinner given at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau Ruhfus.

Farringdon Ward Club
Farringdon Ward Club held a dinner yesterday in the Great Hall, St Bartholomew's Hospital. Mr Anthony Eskenzi, president, presided accompanied by Mrs Eskenzi. Among those present were:

Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, QC, and Lady Lloyd, Lady Greenway, Alderman Sir Peter and Lady Gadsden, Alderman and Mrs Christopher Walford, Mr Deputy and Mrs Stanley Cohen, Mr Deputy and Mrs Winburn Horlock, Mr and Mrs J Minshull-Fogg, Mr and Mrs J L Chalstrey, Mr and Mrs B Wilson-Pemberton, Mr and Mrs D L Kemp and Mr and Mrs W R Linton.

Indo-British Association
The annual dinner of the Indo-British Association was held yesterday at the Dorchester hotel. The guests were received by Mr and Mrs Swraj Paul and Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP, presided. The principal guests were:

The Indian Minister of Law and Justice and Mrs Kaushal, Mr Paul Channon, MP, and Mrs Channon, Mr Michael Foot, MP, and Mrs Foot, Mr Denis Howell, MP, Sir William and Lady Heseltine, Mr and Mrs William Sirs, Mr L K Jha and Mr and Mrs Arun Nehru.

Honourable Society of the Knights of the Round Table
Lord Marshall of Leeds presided for the Queensborough dinner held on Tuesday, at the Atheneum. The occasion marked the founding of the society's Rugg Award for debating at The Leys School, Cambridge which was awarded to Toby Morse, who introduced a debate on the English Gentleman.

Sir Percy Rugg, vice-president of the society and a governor of The Leys School, was present as was Vice-Admiral Sir Ronald Brockman, Mr Barry Fleet, master of studies, and other guests. Mr Neville Barton and Mr John Arthur Tedder were inducted as knights.

Marriages

Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire and Linda, Viscountess Bridport
The marriage took place quietly on December 15 at Nutley, near Basingstoke, of the Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire and Linda, Viscountess Bridport.

Viscount Cross and Mrs P J Rossiter
The marriage has taken place between Viscount Cross and Mrs P J Rossiter.

Mr C M H Murray and Zoë Viscountess Hardinge
The marriage took place in Jersey on December 13 between Mr Christopher Murray of La Glinette, St Aubin, and Zoë Viscountess Hardinge, daughter of Senator H de M Molson, of Montreal, Canada.

Mr A. C. Gilmour and Susan, Lady Chetwode
The marriage of Mr Alexan Clement Gilmour and Susan, Lady Chetwode took place at Chelsea Register Office on Thursday, December 15.

Mr P. A. J. Clarke and Miss B. B. Juhl
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 10, 1983 at Soborg Church, Copenhagen, Denmark, between Mr Paul Andrew Jackson Clarke, elder son of Mr and Mrs Reginald F. Clarke, of Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey and Miss Birgittes Borchersen Juhl, younger daughter of Fru Bente Juhl, of Soborg, Copenhagen.

Mr J. A. Moore-Gillon and Mrs S. Hall
The marriage of Mr John A. Moore-Gillon and Mrs Suzie Hall (née Keefe) took place on Saturday, December 10, 1983.

Mr D. F. J. Paterson and Mrs J. Tung Donelly
The marriage took place quietly on December 3 at St Joseph's Church, Hongkong, between Mr David Paterson and Mrs Jayne Tung Donelly.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. J. Farnham and Miss H. M. Charrington
The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr R. Farnham and Mrs D. Frampton, of 504 Dolphin Square, London, SW1, and Henrietta, daughter of Major R. E. Philips and Mrs Marigold Charrington, of Winchfield House, Winchfield, Hampshire.

Mr D. W. Livingstone and Mrs J. M. H. Hart
The engagement is announced between David Livingstone, of 87, Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, and Jennifer Hart, of 2A, Egerton Place, London, SW3.

Mr P. B. Fitzpatrick and Miss J. A. Johnson
The engagement is announced between Peter-Barrie, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P Fitzpatrick, of Woking, Surrey, and Jacqueline Anne, eldest daughter of wing commander and Mrs J. R. Johnson, of Bielefeld and Rugeley, Staffordshire.

Mr C. G. C. Goodhart and Signorina C. A. E. Cioppa
The engagement is announced between Christopher Gavin Caird, son of Commander and Mrs Anthony Goodhart, of Chateauneuf de Grasse, France, and Caterina Anita Elena, daughter of Ammiraglio di Squadra Grande Ufficiale Egidio and Signora Cioppa, of Cevoli, Italy.

Mr K. J. H. Gouk and Miss F. F. Harley
The engagement is announced between Kenneth John Hunter, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. C. Gouk, of Ringneill, Comber, co. Down, and Fiona Frances, daughter of Professor and Mrs J. M. G. Harley, Stand Lodge, 152, Malone Road, Belfast.

Mr C. R. K. Howell and Miss J. C. Tristram
The engagement is announced between Charles Robert Kerruish, son of Canon and Mrs B. R. Howell, of Leamington Spa, and Jennifer Claire, only daughter of Mr H. Tristram, of Hampstead, London, and Mrs E. M. Tristram, of Caterham, Surrey.

Mr K. R. Warner and Miss E. B. J. Besly
The engagement is announced between Keith, son of Mrs S. Warner and the late Mr G. L. Warner, of Finchley, London, and Emma, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs J. R. S. Besly, of Sellindge, Kent.

Mr C. H. Whiffin and Miss G. M. King
The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of the late Mr R. J. Whiffin and Mrs G. C. Whiffin, of Minehead, Somerset, and Genevieve, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Dominic King, of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

Mr M. S. Williams and Miss R. J. Manterfield
The engagement is announced between Mark Stephen, eldest son of Mr and Mrs M. Williams, of Sutton Coldfield, and Rosamund Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs K. C. Manterfield, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

Soirée

Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council
The Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council (formerly CCOC) held a Christmas soirée yesterday as a tribute to their president, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Lady Howe at 100 Park Lane (by courtesy of Mr Sydney Mason). The guests, who were received by Sir Geoffrey and Lady Howe, Mr Tim Renton, MP, and Mrs Renton and Mrs Edward de la Motte, included:

Viscount Whitelaw, CH, and Viscountess Whitelaw, Mr John Biffen, MP, and Mrs Biffin, Lord Cockfield, Mr Tom King, MP, Mr Michael Jopling, MP, Mr Timothy Raison, MP, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP, the Hon Douglas Hurd, MP, and Mrs Hurd, Mr Ian Gow, MP, the Earl of Avon, Mr Giles Shaw, MP, Sir George Young, MP, Mr Nicholas Scott, MP, Baroness Airey of Abingdon, Lord and Lady Brabazon of Tara, Lady Cullen of Ashburn, Baroness Northchurch, Lord and Lady Duncan-Sandys, Lord and Lady Fanshawe of Richmond, Lord and Lady Marshall of Leeds, Baroness Vickers, Mr Julian Amery, MP, the Hon Mrs Holm, Sir Peter Blaker, MP, and Lady Blaker, Sir Bernard Braine, MP, Sir Frederick Bennett, MP, and Lady Bennett, Sir Anthony Kershaw, MP, and Lady Kershaw, Sir Julian Ridsdale, MP, and Lady Ridsdale, Sir Graham Rowlandson, Mr Peter Tapsell, MP, Mr Michael Spicer, MP.

Baron and Baroness Beck, Mr and Mrs Richard L McCormack, Mr David Bagnell, Mr N Bonner Cash, Mr and Mrs D G Bullock, Mr C Coulson Thomas, Mrs A M Corry, Mr and Mrs Richard FitzWilliams, Mr and Mrs Robert FitzWilliams, Mr J Gohel, Mr Raymond Grumbar, Mr Scott Hamilton, Mr Peter Lane, Mr and Mrs R G Moore, Brigadier and Mrs Rainold Lewthwaite, Mr M Rose-Cormack-Lyons, Captain Patrick Vincent, RN, and Major and Mrs N Saroop.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr Malcolm Curtis to be general secretary of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals in July, 1984, in succession to Mr Elgar Bowling.

Dr Oliver Neville to be principal of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art next April, in succession to Mr Hugh Cruttwell, who is to retire.

Mr J. Nigel Naish to be a trustee of the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, in succession to Lord Seebohm.

Birthdays today

Professor Sir Harold Bailey, 84; Mr N. C. Blamey, 69; Mr F. R. Brown, 72; Mr Arthur C. Clarke, 66; Judge Myrella Cohen, QC, 56; the Hon Peter Dickinson, 56; Major G. J. Graham-Green, 77; Sir Jasper Hollom, 66; Lord Margadale, 77; Mr J. H. F. Monahan, 71; Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Norris, 83; Air Chief Marshal Sir Hubert Patch, 79; Sir Victor Pritchett, 83; Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, 61; Sir John Thompson, 76; Miss Jacqueline Thwaites, 52; Miss Liv Ullman, 45; Dr Jan van Loewen, 82.

Latest wills

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Ernest Edward De Winton Wills, 4th Bt, of Mount Prosperous, Hungerford, Berkshire, left estate valued at £2,134,017 net. He left his property to his wife and issue.

Mrs Elizabeth Jowett, of Wollaton Park, Nottingham, left estate valued at £281,118 net. After various bequests she left the residue equally between the British Heart Foundation, Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, Leukaemia Research Fund and the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Jenkins Sarah Blodwen, of Stowe, Buckinghamshire. Intestate £216,336.

Smith Mr Lynn, of Havering-atte-Bower, London, £304,438.

Talbot Mr Mervyn, of Stanmore, London, £290,870.

University news

Manchester
L. H. Hillier, BSc, PhD(Lond), reader in chemistry, has been appointed to a personal chair in chemistry from December 1.

C. C. Kiernan, BA(Nott), PhD(Lond), deputy director of Thomas Coram Research Unit, London University Institute of Education, to be director of the Hester Adrian Research Centre from a date to be arranged.

Grants
Science and Engineering Research Council: £129,978 to Dr Howard Barringer, I D Cottam and Professor C B Jones for the provision of Vax machines as research infrastructure for software technology; £63,757 to Dr M A H McCausland and Dr J W Ross for research into exchange and crystal field interactions in magnetic rare earth materials.

Church news

APPOINTMENTS
The Rev J W Bell, vicar of Buckingham, diocese of Oxford: to be also rural dean of Buckingham.
The Rev R K Billings, curate of St James, Tunbridge Wells, diocese of Rochester: to be vicar of St Paul with All Saints, Chatham, in the same diocese.
The Rev W J Bucknall, vicar of St Paul, Wednesbury, diocese of Lichfield: to be team rector of Wordsley, in the same diocese.
The Rev W J Bulley, rector of Chagford with Gidleigh and Throwleigh, diocese of Exeter: to be team rector of Widecombe, Leusden and Princetown with Postbridge and Huccaby Chapels (Moorland team ministry) in the same diocese.
The Rev E G Clements, curate of Brixham with Churston, diocese of Exeter: to be vicar of All Saints, Lower Brixham in the Brixham team ministry, in the same diocese
The Rev J G Cole, diocesan communications officer and priest-in-charge of All Saints, Pendleton, diocese of Blackburn: to be vicar of St Edburgha's, Yardley, diocese of Birmingham
Prebendary J S Green: to be prebendary emeritus of Exeter Cathedral on his resignation from his prebendal stall on December 31.
The Rev A S Hewison: permission to officiate, diocese of Exeter.
The Rev R J Hill, curate of St Luke's, West Derby, diocese of Liverpool: to be priest-in-charge of St Michael's, Devonport, diocese of Exeter.
The Rev J Hutchinson, priest-in-charge of Pangbourne, diocese of Oxford: to be also priest-in-charge, Tidmarsh and Sulham.
The Rev J D James, vicar of James's, Clacton, diocese of Chelmsford: to be vicar of Rowde, and rector of Poulshot, diocese of Salisbury
The Rev G H Jones, vicar of Bremhill with Foxham and Hilmarton, diocese of Salisbury: to be also rural dean of Calne.

Science report

Dispelling myths about first-born children

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The oldest child in a family is the object of great attention and high expectation by its parents. Hence the first born becomes "a self-critical perfectionist who is most likely to succeed". Middle children, while the most popular in their school and neighbourhood, "can feel neglected and embark on an endless search for a sense of belonging". The pampered youngest child is temprementai, insecure and an "engaging show-off".

Those stereotypes were assembled two years ago by Dr Bradford Wilson, an American scientist, to describe ideas which have been discussed for many years by psychologists about how the position in a family shapes the character, choice and success of an individual's career. Birth order theory makes an appealingly neat way to categorize human beings: it is like astrology, but with scientific trappings.

Psychological research is alleged to show that the "first-born personality" produces a disproportionate number of astronauts, Nobel Prize winners, prime ministers and presidents, or why presidential assassins are more often younger siblings.

In the same vein, the average first-born is said to have a higher IQ and does better at school than younger brothers and sisters.

However, a close scrutiny of other research over the past 30 years shows that entirely different interpretations are possible, and are the subject of a special report, The Myth of the First Born, in the current issue of *Science 83*, the monthly periodical of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

It examines the conclusions of two psychiatrists from Switzerland who have analyzed 1,500 studies into the effects of the position of individuals in their family.

Dr Cecile Ernst and Jules Angst, of the University of Zurich, reach a simple judgment. Looking at the importance of position in the family together with other factors, they claim that the effects of birth order falls somewhere between negligible and non-existent.

The problem with research into birth order, in their opinion, is that it ignores many other crucial differences among parents and family conditions.

For instance, in the United States and most other industrial countries, parents of large families tend, on average, to have less money, less education, and lower IQs than parents of small families. A study comparing oldest children with fifth children, therefore, is inherently biased.

The sample of first-borns in any study is a cross-section of all social classes, but a disproportionate number of the fifth-borns come from "less privileged" homes. It is this disadvantage, not the younger children's position within the family, that best explains any disparities, they say.

Science 83, December.

OBITUARY

LORD AMULREE

Medical care of old people

Lord Amulree, KBE, who died on December 15 at the age of 83, was a qualified doctor who took a special interest in the problems of old people, and was active on medical questions both in the House of Lords and outside.

Basil William Sholto Mackenzie was born on July 25, 1900, the only son of the 1st Baron Amulree and his wife Lilian. He was educated at Lancing and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and then went to University College Hospital, where he qualified in 1925. He worked as an assistant pathologist there and at the Royal Northern Hospital before joining the Ministry of Health as a medical officer in 1936.

It was in that capacity that he produced in 1939 an official report on the extent to which patients suffering from cancer received adequate treatment. He remained with the Ministry throughout the war, giving special attention to those in the shelters during the London Blitz.

In 1949 he resigned to become assistant physician in charge of chronic sick wards at University College Hospital, and he remained there until 1966.

He had succeeded his father in 1942, but whereas his father had been linked with the Labour Party and had served in Ramsay MacDonald's second government, Amulree was a Liberal. He played an active part in the House of Lords, particularly on questions of health, and served as Liberal Whip from 1955 to 1977.

Outside the House of Lords he was active in a number of associations dealing with medical and social issues. At different times he was president of the London County division of the British Red Cross, the Association of Occupational Therapists, the Association of Welfare Officers, the British Geriatric Society and the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics.

In 1951 he published *Adding Life to Years*, in which he wrote about the problems of old people, and emphasized in particular that they should be encouraged to lead independent lives in their own homes for as long as possible.

He was appointed KBE in 1977 for services to health and welfare. He was unmarried.

DR S. CLOTWORTHY

Dr Stanley Clotworthy, CBE, who died on December 6 at the age of 81, was Senior Pro-Chancellor of the University of Southampton, an appointment he held from 1972, after a successful career in the aluminium industry during which he had been chairman of Alcan Industries Ltd and Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd.

He was born and educated in Hampshire – at Peter Symonds School, Winchester, and at the then University College, Southampton.

He graduated BSc in 1921 and began a highly successful career in industry. After a student apprenticeship with B.T.H Ltd and a very brief spell with an electrical cable firm, he joined the Northern Aluminium Company in 1927. That company became Alcan Industries Ltd and in due course Stanley Clotworthy became managing director and chairman.

He retired in 1967 but became chairman of the holding company, Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd.

At the beginning of the war he had joined the Ministry of Aircraft Production, but in 1942 he returned to the aluminium industry and became responsible for all its production facilities and, particularly, for the critically important supply of aluminium to aircraft factories. For this work and for the leading rôle he played in the development of the aluminium industry in the United Kingdom, he was appointed CBE in 1959.

He had served as a director of the Development Corporation of Wales, president of the Aluminium Federation, president of the Institute of Metals and chairman of the Non-ferrous Metals Research Association.

In the early 1960s, when approaching retirement, his formidable energies were put at the disposal of his *alma mater*, and he played a prominent part in the university's successful Centenary Appeal in 1962. He was appointed to the University's Council in 1963 and was its chairman from 1969 to 1982.

Stanley Clotworthy was a modest but able and far-seeing man. He advocated cooperation between science and industry many years before it became fashionabe to do so, and the university's close and successful links with industry owe much to his initial encouragement.

He met his wife, Win, whilst both were students at the old Southampton University College; she survives him as do their son and daughter.

MR THEODORE CROMBIE

A correspondent writes:

The death occurred in London on December 6 of Theodore Crombie, the art historian, at the age of 71. He was an authority on Spanish Old Master paintings, especially those of Velasquez and Goya, and was in demand as an authenticator and valuer of private collections. He was a trustee of the William De Morgan Trust.

Crombie, known to his friends as "Ted", was born on July 29, 1913, and educated at Harrow and at Magdalen College, Oxford. He took a post as a temporary Secretary in the British Embassy in Montevideo, where he met Elsie Gallaugher, a Uruguayan of English and Scots ancestry, whom he married in 1945.

He was entirely self-taught in art, from books, wide-ranging travel and long visits to art galleries. But he became one of the most frequent contributors to the art magazine *Apollo*. A tall, good-looking figure – the very model of a British diplomatist – Crombie was modest and extremely popular throughout the art world.

At their home in Chelsea, hung with South American "colonial" paintings, he and his wife created the equivalent of a Parisian *salon* of the early nineteenth century. Literary figures and artists attended the Crombie *soirées*. Pianists of the stature of Alfred Brendel and Paul Coker practised and occasionally performed on Mrs Crombie's superb grand piano.

In the past year, Ted Crombie's health had been visibly declining. But to the end he remained a courteous and cheerful host.

JANOS FLESCH

Janos Flesch, the Hungarian grandmaster was killed in a car accident with his wife Ildiko on December 10. Flesch, who was 50, was in this country, playing in the Ramsgate International Chess Tournament.

Flesch became an international master in his early twenties and a grandmaster in 1978 when he won a strong international tournament at Pecs in Hungary.

He had a famous victory over Viktor Korchnoi in Belgrade in 1964, but his chief claim to fame was that he held the record for blindfold simultaneous chess when in 1960 he played against 52 strong players without himself having sight of the board.

This year Batsford published his book, *Planning in Chess*.

SIR ANTONY GUY ACLAND

Major Sir Antony Guy Acland, 5th Baronet, who died on December 14, served in the Royal Artillery for 21 years from 1937, and then joined Saunders-Roe as a rocket engineer. The projects on which he worked included the Black Knight and Black Arrow research rockets.

Acland, who was 67, laid the foundation for his work on rocket development and trials by specialising first in the RA in anti-aircraft defence, later becoming an instructor in gunnery and attending the Military College of Science. He retired in 1967.

Acland, who succeeded his father in 1978, married in 1939 Avriel Ann Wingfield-Stratford who died in 1943; they had a daughter. He then in 1944 married Margaret Joan Rooke, by whom he had a son and daughter. Major Guy Acland, RA, succeeds to the title.

DR R. SZYDLOWSKI

Dr Roman Szydlowski, the Polish theatre critic, translator and author, who was President of the International Theatre Critics' Association from 1969 to 1975, has died in Warsaw at the age of 65.

Even during the Second World War he found a way of expressing his interest in the theatre. After the German invasion of Poland he took refuge in the Soviet Union, but he then returned to Poland to join a clandestine theatre group – another of whose members was Karol Wojtyla, later to become Pope John Paul II.

In more recent years Szydlowski wrote for *Trybuna Ludu* and other Polish and foreign publications. He also founded and edited the *International Theatre Yearbook*, and served on the board of the *World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre*. He took a particular interest in British and American theatre.

Sir John Hedges, CBE, who died on December 14, was chairman of the Berkshire Area Health Authority from 1973 to 1979.

Colonel J. A. Sulivan, OBE, who died on November 21 at the age of 67, was a former General Manager of the Milford Haven Conservancy Board, and High Sheriff of Dyfed.

Lady Heyworth, who died in Toronto on December 12, was the widow of the late Lord Heyworth, chairman of Unilever Ltd 1942-60. She was the former Lois Dunlop.

Mr Robert Newton, CMG, who died on December 10 at the age of 75, was Colonial Secretary in Mauritius until his retirement in 1961.

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THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Tight money rein could give Reagan rough ride

The White House view is that the American economy will grow about 4.5 per cent next year. This projection has still to be stamped by President Reagan who will release it and other estimates in his 1985 budget message to Congress early in February. Administration economists working on the budget are convinced that this rate of growth can be achieved provided the US Federal Reserve Board, does not keep money growth on too tight a rein. Their fears are not without foundation. The influential Mr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers predicted yesterday that the Federal Reserve would move quickly in 1984 to tighten monetary policy. *This will result, in his opinion*, in a slowing of economic growth until late 1984 and an erratic rise in US interest rates.

For several weeks senior Administration officials have expressed fears that the Fed may already have tightened policy too much in its effort to prevent a rekindling of inflation. They have warned *the* White House that because of the considerable lenght of time the economy needs to respond tot he central bank's actions a sharp slowdown could become apparent in November, just two weeks before the presidential elections, when figures are released for the quarter ending September 30.

Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, reflected these fears in a speech this week at the Washington Press Club, in which he said: "The Fed wants to cool this economy before it overheats and we get inflation back. They have been tightening for the last six months. My concern is that they not overdo it."

The Administration economists are also *reported to have forecast a huge federal* budget deficit in the neighbourhood of $200 billion. The prospect of a series of mammoth budget deficits is one reason why Mr Kaufman is looking for a rise in interset rates. He has lent his voice to calls for action to reduce the deficit. President Reagan, however, has ruled out a significant tax increase in his next budget. He said yesterday that he did not intend to raise taxes in 1984 but he left the door open for some sort of a "tax package" in later years.

Although both the president and Administration economists have played down the importance of Federal budget deficits, they were singled out specifically *by M Jacques De Larosiére, head of the* International Monetary Fund, in a speech in Chicago yesterday. M De Larosiére said a primary aim of the IMF in the coming year would be to force member nations to place special emphasis in reducing fiscal deficits which threaten to "crowd out" private investors just as the global recovery gathers momentum.

That shoud please Mrs Thatcher.

Stalemate at the Savoy

Trusthouse Forte went to great lengths yesterday to emphasize that it was not its current intention to make a further offer for Savoy Hotel. This rider came after THF, in agreement with the Takeover Panel, had disclosed that it had bought from the investment arm of S G Warburg, THF's merchant bank, a further 1.137 million Savoy A shares. The deal was struck on Friday and most of it was executed outside the market. THF would not reveal the price.

The additional shares raise THF's interest in the Savoy equity to 69 per cent. The number of votes it has rises from 40.2 per cent ot 42.3 per cent.

Savoy Hotel's two-tier equity structure leaves THF in a unique position: two-thirds of Savoy profits and dividends fall to THF, but control still rests with Sir Hugh Wontner and the Savoy board who would prefer Lord Forte to fold up his tent and leave their gate. In March two years ago Lord Forte, (then Sir Charles) bid £58m and then £67m for Savoy Hotel – *the company also owns the Connaught*, Claridge's and the Berkeley – but the citadel did not fall. Nor will it as long as the B shares, which make up a small proportion of the share capital but a large part of the voting power (the A shares have a tenth of a vote whereas every five B shares carry 10 votes) remain in firm and friendly hands. The most important of these belong to Dame Bridget D'Oly Carte, but Lady Ellerman's holding is the critical one. If Lord Forte could charm hers from her, he could be within an ace of winning the game.

Lord Forte appears to be as determined as ever to own Savoy Hotel but he has *admitted that the present situation cannot* continue indefinitely. It is a costly stalemate for THF and frustrating for the Savoy. The good so far that has come out of the clash is a much more determined and commercially successful Savoy management.

Invisibles: the unauthorized text

Two versions of a Department of Trade and Industry-sponsored report, *Success in Invisibles*, will be published today. The first, about 25 pages long, comes from the DTI itself. The second, from the author, Mr Andrew Tessler, is three times as long and contains criticisms that do not appear in the official text.

The report deals with all invisibles but it concentrates on the most dynamic sector of all: the professions – consulting engineers, architects, management consultancies, surveyors, lawyers. Their overseas earnings have increased twentyfold in just over 10 years and are now worth £1 billion a year. At the present rate of growth, they would be worth £2 billion in six years.

The chances of that happening, Mr Tessler argues, are being diminished by the Government itself through the tax system.

Firms largely made up of partners are *taxed on a personal basis. Nationalized* industries, which have developed their own agencies are alleged to be under-cutting private sector firms by unfair means.

Mr Tessler found that British partnerships which find it vertually impossible to raise venture capital have to spend between £60,000 and £80,000 each time they want to bid for a new contract overseas. These down-payments, without any guarantee of success or return, have to be met out of taxed income. He cites instances where tax is levied twice on the same earnings.

New Argentine government calls for debt moratorium

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Bailey Morris

Argentina's new Government has asked its commercial bank creditors for a moratorium on debt payments, it emerged yesterday. However, there was confusion in banking circles over the exact nature of the request.

Reports from Buenos Aires said that Argentina wanted a six-month delay on payments on its $40 billion external debt. But bankers in London suggested that a 90-day moratorium on principle payments was more likely.

Bankers interpreted the action of the civilian government, which formally assumed power only on Saturday, as a prelude to a new round of debt-rescheduling negotiations on which the new ministers wanted to stamp their mark.

London banking sources said that Argentina would want to defer signing public-sector debt-rescheduling agreements negotiated by the previous government. It was likely to press for more favourable terms on the refinancing of $4 billion to $5 billion of public-sector debt maturities due in 1984 and 1985.

Senor Bernardo Grispun, *Economy Minister, is reported* to have said in Buenos Aris yesterday that Argentina would postpone any new payments on its foreign debt until June 30, 1984. By that date, the country hoped to have completed reschedulings for 1984 maturities.

Although debt negotiation with the Argentinians have caused considerable problems for the banks over the past year, bankers are resonable relaxed about reaching new agreements with the civilian government. Indeed, the return to civilian rule has been seen as a hopeful sign.

But the road to stability has only just begun. The government must move quicly to restore order to a chaotic economy plagued not only by a big foreign debt but also by a lack of domestic spending priorities and by hidden costs from arms purchases made by the former military junta.

This was the assessment of senior US officials who returned this week from the inauguration ceremonies in Buenos Aires with a cautiously optimistic view of what lies ahead for President Raul Alfonsin's government.

US officials said that they were impressed by the his seasoned economic team and by his strong political commitment to a tough economic austerity programme disigned to halve the huge deficit, estimated at 14 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

Top priorities of the new government according to Mr McNamar will be to improve relations with commercial banks, which hold the bulk of its $40 billion debt, and to put in place an economic programme would be acceptable to the International Monetary Fund.

This would involve settlement, through either legislation or court action, of a series of difficult legal questions which poisoned Argentina's relations with its foreign debtors during the Falklands war, Mr McNamar said.

It appears that the new government would need short-term financial help of only $3 billion in new commercial funds in order to get the economy back on its feet before undertaking a full-scale restructuring of its outstanding foreign debt, he said.

Industry set to invest more

By Our Financial Staff

Government hopes that higher investment will help to keep the economy moving ahead as the impetus from consumer spending slackens were boosted yesterday by the latest survey of investment intentions by the Department of Trade and Industry.

This shows that industry plans to step up investment by about 7 per cent in 1984 with an even sharper rise by the *manufacturing sector. In manu*facturing, capital spending, including investment financed through leasing, is expected to show a 9 per cent volume rise in 1984 compared with this year.

The DTI survey is considerably more optimistic than the predictions of the Confederation of British Industry and is a surprise to many outside forecasters.

It will be particularly welcome to the Government because recent figures have shown manufacturing production remaining flat and investment sluggish. Revised *third-quarter capital spending* figures issued yesterday disclose a fall of mre than 1 per cent in manufacturing investment in the latest six months compared with six months earlier.

The DTI survey also suggests that there will be a further, though smaller, increase in the *volume of investment in 1985*.

However, the latest cylical indicators for the economy published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office give no firm indication that the recovery is likely to gather pace.

Between July and October, the longer leading index, which *s supposed to chart movements* in the economy 12 months ahead, showed a decline. Incomplete information for November suggests a slight rise in the index.

Sterling recovers to $1.42

By Our Banking Correspondent

Sterling clawed back some ground on the foreign exchanges yesterday as further heavy intervention by the West German central band helped to restrain the dollar.

Speculation of higher British interest rates also helped the pound – *although there is* no indication that the authorities are contemplating a rise – as did the previous day's news that BNOC has proposed no change in its North Sea oil prices for the first quarter of next year.

The pound closed up 55 points against the dollar at $1.4225 and firmed against other leading currencies. It rose by 1¾ pfennigs against the Deutschemark to DM 3.94 and its trade-weighted value against a basket of currencies finished the day up 0.2 at 81.0.

Dealers believe the huge dollar sales by the German authorities to protect their *currency* will do little to change the underlying strength of the dollar, but thry are nevertheless, nervous of being caught out. The dollar closed in London yesterday onnly 20 points higher against the mark at DM2.7670.

The German central bank does not disclose the extent of its intervention in the open market, but it is believed to have spent well over $500m in the past two days or so in trying to check the dollar.

Pound rally helps gilts

A recovering pound put new life into the gilts market yesterday. Despite being down by about 25p early in the day, gilts closed 12p up on the strength of sterling. The pound itself gained 55 points against the dollar at $1.4225.

Meanwhile, the FT Index put up a firm performance, despite a weak opening on Wall Street. It closed 1.7 up at 752.8

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 752.8 up 1.7
FT Gilts: 82.26 down 0.04
FT All Share: 463.65 up 0.36
Bargains: 19,828
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.17 down 0.17
New York: Dow Jones Average: (latest) 1241.26 down 5.39
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9462.48 up 61.26
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 869.88 down 4.88

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
$1.4225 up 55pts
Index 82.0 up 0.2
DM 3.9400 up 0.0175
FrF 12.0050 up 0.0525
Yen 334.50 up 1.25
Dollar
Index 130.7 down 0.1
DM 2.7670 up 0.0020
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling $1.4235
Dollar DM 2.7705
INTERNATIONAL
ECU£0.754744
SDR£0.733505

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 8⅞
3 month interbank 9¾-9⅝
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10⁷⁄₁₆-10⁵⁄₁₆
3 month DM 6⁹⁄₁₆-6⁷⁄₁₆
3 month FrF 13-¾13½
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9⅞
Treasury long bond 99¾-99⅞

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $388.60 pm $388.75
close $388.75-389.50 (£273.50-274.00)
New York latest: $381.75
Krugerrand* (per coin):
$400.50-402.00 (£281.75-282.75)
Sovereigns* (new):
$91.00-92.00 (£64.00-64.75)
*Excludes VAT

Surprise £15m fall in Distillers profits

By Jeremy Warner

The Distillers Company, the scotch whisky group, yesterday sprung a surprise on the City by announcing sharply lower half-year profits.

Pretax profits in the six months to the end of September fell from £80.2m to £64.9m, on sales £8.3m higher at £493m.

The company said last July that its profits would fall this year, but nobody foresaw the scale of the downturn.

The profits were struck after charges of £4.3m for redundancy and closure costs.

The chairman, Mr John Connell, said that trading profits in the second half were unlikely to compare favourably with the strong performance of the same period last year.

The company's share price *fell 12p to 218p after news of* the results, wiping £44m off the group's stock market value.

Mr Robert Temple, a Distillers' director, cited weak demand for whisky in the Latin American and Middle East markets as the main reason for the fall in profits.

The volume of sales to parts of these markets has as much halved so far this year. The effect of this on profits has been severe, since it was very high-margin de-luxe whiskies that tended to sell best in the once buoyant markets such as Venezuela and Mexico.

In most other areas of the world, Distillers has done no worse than the industry as a whole and, in some markets, notably the United States, it claims to has done better.

The strength of the dollar has had a dramatic impact on the profitability of exports to the US. Profits are said to be about £5m higher than they would have been had last year's exchange rates ruled at the end of September.

The group gave a cautious indication that the worse may now be over for the Scotch industry. Recent reports from a number of markets suggest that the decline in consumer demand is levelling off and the *company is hoping for a gradual* recovery next year.

In contrast to the poor performance from whisky, the group's much smaller white spirits business improved trading profits, helped by a big rise in exports of Tanqueray gin to the US. The product is now challenging Beafeater as the top selling imported gin in the US.

United Glass, the group's 50-per-cent-owned glass container manufacturing company, reported a £4m loss after providing for rationalization costs.

London Brick *in £8m deals*

London Brick is buying two small regional brickmakers for £8.25m in line with its policy of trying to build a fifth force in the non-fletton facing brick market. The company has a monopoly of fletton brick making, but has only a small share of the market for other bricks.

It is paying £6.25m in cash for the Milton Hall Brick Company, a subsidiary of the Southend Estates property group. Milton is a leading producer of "London stock bricks".

It is also paying £2m, mainly in shares, for Claughton Manor Brick, a leading manufacturer in North-west England of frost resistant bricks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Request by Allianz rejected

Eagle Star has given a final rejection to requests from Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance group, for further information about its business. Allianz had said that failure to supply the information could result in its offering Eagle Star shareholders a lower price for their shares.

But Eagle Star's chairman, Sir Denis Mountain has declined to disclose details of the company's 1984 budget, saying it was impossible to quantify the effect of a change of control on the group's business and that provision of the figures could lead to them being treated with a degree of accuracy that would be inappropriate.

● The pay of Mr Michael Hollingbery, the chairman and chief executive of Comet Group, the electrical retailer, increased from £72,000 to £122,000, excluding pension contributions, last year. The salary of the unnamed highest paid director increased from £83,000 to £194,000. The increases follow last year's record profits of £19.5m.

● Unigate's profits increased from £15.3m to a record £23.6m in the first half of the year on a turnover up from £787m to £855m. The interim dividend *has been increased from 2.5p to* 2.75p.

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● Rediffusion Simulation, owned by British Electric Traction, yesterday announced its first big contract with British Airways for a full flight simulator for its new Boeing 737s. The £4.5m order was the first contract won by the British company from BA in several years, and came only after it dislodged a Canadian rival during several months of negotiations.

WALL STREET

Losses increase

New York (AP–Dow Jones) – Losses were slowly increasing in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by more than 6 points to 1,240 and the Transportation Average had fallen by about 5 points to 589. **General Motors** fell ⅛ to 73¼, **Honeywell** was off ½ at 134⅛, **Texas Oil** down ⅜ at 42½, **Getty Oil** up 1¾ to 78½. **Exxon** ¼ lower at 37⅝. **International Business Machines** off ⅝ at 120½ and **Union Carbide** unchanged at 62½.

Reed questions bid rebuff

By Jonathan Clare

Reed Stenhouse has told shareholders in Stenhouse Holdings to ask their board and its financial advisers why they have rejected Reed's bid terms when they said during negotiations that they were "recommendable".

The suggestion by Reed plays on the uncertainties within the Stenhouse board which culminated in the resignation of Mr Bert Houghton, a former chairman, last week because he believed the terms should be accepted.

Reed also tells shareholders in a document despatched yesterday to ask what advice was given to the board by Noble Grossart, the merchant bank. Noble is 20 per cent owned by Stenhouse and is its long-term adviser. But Stenhouse is currently using J. Henry Schroder Wragg's services.

Reed, a Canadian insurance broker, has bid £53m for Stenhouse, the Glasgow-based broker

Yesterday Schroder said the offer could not be recommended because negotiations "never got to terms

Private producers attack Minister

Steel sell-off 'going too slowly'

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday clashed with Britian's private sector steel industry over allegations that the Government was dragging its feet over the promised privatization of the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Lamont was criticized at the annual lunch of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association by the president, Mr Peter Lee. Mr Lee said that apart from some welcome exceptions, the government had made little progress in returning the steel industry to private *hands*.

He said that despite the understandable difficulties, the need for Britain to have a viable and efficient steel-producing industry, independent of public subsidy, was as vital as ever. "We believe that the failure of the Government to ensure that *priority* was being given to its stated policy has made the task more difficult and progress has been unnecessarily slow."

Mr Lamont, who is representing the Government in the latest round of European Community talks aimed at



Norman Lamont: "Difficult to find private-sector cash

setting new minimum steel prices and forming a system of forfeits for non-compliance, accused Mr Lee of failing to acknowledge what had been done and the problems of privatizing in the face of the deepest recession and the largest losses in the steel industey for 30 years.

A major problem had been finding private-sector companies prepared to put up money to buy assets at anything like a reasonable price, he said.

The association estimates that about 20 per cent of BSC's output directly overlaps that of the private sector, and should be rationalized. Plans are already well advanced for a "Phoenix" company covering the engineering steels sector, to be formed from public and private interests. But that would still leave 10 per cent of BSC products competing with the private sector.

Meanwhile, talks have once again been postponed between the BSC and United States Steel *over the proposed controversial* joint venture to sell Scottish steel slabs to United States Steel's Fairless finishing mill

A final decision was expected after a meeting on Wednesday in New York between Mr Robert Haslam, BSC chairman, and Mr David Roderick, chairman of United States Steel. But, according to a brief BSC statement, "a final outcome has not yet emerged".

A conclusion is expected to be reached in January.

Steel production in Britain's public and private sectors averaged 310,000 tonnes a week in November, a rise of 2.5 per cent on the previous month and 31.6 per cent up on a year ago. For the first 11 months of the year, output averaged 292,200 tonnes a week, a rise of 7 per cent on the depressed levels of 1982.

ICI sells stake in Vantona

By Michael Clark

ICI finally severed its connexions with the textile industry yesterday by selling its entire stake in Vantona Viyella.

The group is selling 7 million shares in the company at 148p each, amounting to just under 20 per cent of the total issued equity and valüing the entire stake at £10.36m. The shares are being placed with financial institutions by the merchant *bank N. M. Rothschild* and the broker Hoare Govett.

ICI obtained its shares in Vantona Viyella when Carrington Viyella, in which it owned a sizable stake, merged with Mr David Alliance's Vantona earlier this year.

Shares of ICI slipped 4p to 650p on the news, but later recovered to close only 2p down at 652p. The sale met with mixed reactions in the City, with observers expressing surprise at ICI's timing

It now looks as though the textile industry is starting to pull clear of the recession. Yesterday, Mr Alliance, chairman of Vantona Viyella, took the opportunity to forecast a leap in pretax profits for the present year from £4.3m to £11m.

Mr Alliance said that he was pleased with ICI's decision to, sell, having wanted it to place the stake.

ICI says that one reason for selling now was to help improve the group's tax position as the financial year draws to a close. But the group was known to have been unhappy with its investment: it had supported the lossmaking Carrington Viyella for years.

Mr Alliance intends to take up 250,000 of the shares on offer. This is in addition to the shares he will be entitled to take up as Vantona'a biggest shareholder.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Aspinall Holdings 10p Ord (115a)	140
BP 25p Ord (435*)	168+4
Brewmaker 1p Ord (33.25pa)	32
Federated Housing 5p Ord (54a)	45
French Connection GRP 5p Ord (123a)	141
High-Point services 10p Ord (137a)	140
Johnson & Jorgensen 10p Ord (85a)	88+2
Kenyon Securities 25p Ord (139a)	175
Logica 10p Ord (220*)	270+4
MME Facilities 10p Ord (40a)	40
Mebon 10p Ord (96a)	95
Moray Firth Maltings 50p Ord (195a)	217
PCT 10p Ord (150a)	155
Page (Michael) 5p Ord (90a)	109
Pericom 10p Ord (140a)	163
Peters M. 25p Ord (85a)	96
Protimeter 5p Ord (26.5a)	31
Tay Homes 25p Ord (90a)	91–1
Tyne Tees 100p "A" NV (135a)	138
Wondchester Investments IR 20p (IR 84a)	170

Issue price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities. * by tender.

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Trident shares tipped

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

The decision of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to block the proposed merger of **Trident Television** and Pleasurama earlier this week has not deterred everyone. At least that is the view of broker Kitcat & Aitken, which is recommending the shares of Trident as a "buy" to its clients.

Kitcat is confident that another bid for the group may be just around the corner and this time might receive the blessings of the Monopolies Commission. Kitcat refuses to name names, but the market has its own thoughts on the subject.

Top of the list **Aspinall's** – a client of Kitcat & Aitken – which yesterday announced it had increased its holding in Anglo Scottish Investment with the purchase of an extra 1.48 million shares. This takes Aspinall's total stake to 4.78 million shares, about 15 per cent of the shares, and it is reckoned a full bid may soon follow.

Aspinall's, the Knightsbridge casino group previously jointly owned by zoo owner Mr John Aspinall and financier Sir James Goldsmith, joined the Unlisted Securities Market in November raising almost £9m in the process.

Last night shares of Trident closed unchanged at 118p valuing the company at £57m. Aspinall's refused to be drawn on the subject.

Broker Jacobson Townsley has become a big fan of shares of Saatchi & Saatchi following recent figures showing pretax profits last year doubled at £11.2m and regard them as outstanding value. For the present year JT is looking for pretax profits of £15m earnings of 30p selling on a P/E of 17. The shares rose 5p to 515p yesterday.

The rest of the equity market put up a solid performance despite the overnight setback on Wall Street and the low level of turnover which has affected the market in the run up to Christmas. The FT Index having fluctuated in narrow limits throughout most of the day closed 1.7 up at 752.8.

Once again there was solid support for blue chips where US investors continue to take more than a passing interest. **Imperial Chemical Industries** has been a particular favourite and Wall Street investors now own around 15 per cent of the shares in the form of American depositary receipts. But yesterday the shares slipped 2p to 652p as the group announced plans to sell off its entire 20 per cent stake in **Vantona Viyella** amounting to 7.1 million shares at 148p a share.

The star turn was again reserved for **BOC Group** following recent figures. The shares jumped 19p to a record 295p as American investors managed to pick up about 500,000 shares in a thin market.

Hefty gains were also seen in **Hawker Siddeley** 10p up at 358p, **Plessey** 5p at 237p and **TI Group** 8p at 164p.

There was late support for the pound on the foriegn exchange and this was good news for gilts with prices recovering earlier losses to show gains of up to 12p in longs, while at the shorter end prices were generally unchanged. The pound closed 55 points up at $1.4225.

Shares of consolidated Murchison, the South African antimony mining group, hit a second 665p in London yesterday – a rise of more than 120p in the past three weeks. Dealers report heavy support for the shares from the Cape and ther is now talk of a bid of about £10 a share. At this level the group is valued at £41m.

Second liners saw **GRA Group**, which owns most of the greyhound racing stadiums in this country, spurt 4p to a new high for the year of 47p on renewed support by two leading brokers. Reports suggest the group is about to strengthen the board still further and the name of Mr Jeffrey Sterling, of P & O and Town & and City, has been put in the frame.

There are also suggestions that GRA may be on the verge of clinching a deal to sell-off some of its vast property portfolio to one of the big supermarket chains. Both GRA and Mr Sterling were unavailable for comment.

Among insurance brokers **Minet Holdings** rose 1p to 143p ahead of nine month figures due shortly. Analysts are looking for pretax profits of between £15m and £17m compared with the corresponding figure of £13m.

Moray Firth Maltings, the scotch whisky group, celebrated its start on the Unlisted Securities Market. Opening at 227p the shares later slipped to 217p, but by the close were still showing a premium of 22p – quite an achievement for newcomers lately.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

1982/83 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
99²¹⁄₃₂	87¾	Fund	5½%	1982-84	99²⁵⁄₃₂ ●	..	5.519	9.941
103¾	91⅝	Exch	11¼%	1984	100¾	..	11.222	9.169
107¼	96½	Exch	14%	1984	101⅞	..	13.743	9.367
97⅛	81¼	Exch	3%	1984	97⁷⁄₁₆ ●	..	3.081	9.119
105¾	91½	Treas	12%	1984	101¹³⁄₁₆	..	11.801	9.395
111⅛	96¾	Treas	15%	1985	105¹⁄₁₆	..	14.277	10.211
112⅞	89½	Exch Cv	12%	1985	102⁹⁄₁₆	..	11.743	10.085
93⅞	73¾	Treas	3%	1985	93²¹⁄₁₆	–¹⁄₁₆	3.202	7.773
105½	87⅞	Treas	11½%	1985	101¹⁵⁄₁₆ ●	..	11.282	10.162

[Remaining British Funds (Shorts, Mediums, Longs, Undated), Commonwealth and Foreign, Local Authorities, Dollar Stocks, Banks and Discounts, Breweries and Distilleries, and Commercial and Industrial (A–B, C–E, F–H, I–N, O–S, T–Z), Financial Trusts, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Shipping, Mines, Oil, Property, Plantations, Miscellaneous and Unlisted Securities price tables: illegible at this resolution]

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
79	39	Ass Fisheries	78	+1	3.2	4.1	8.5
111	50½	Ass Leisure	101	–1	5.9	5.8	11.5
418	136	Ass News	378	+18	14.9	3.9	17.8
114	49½	Ass Paper	114	..	6.0b	5.3	8.6
448	235	Atlantic Comp	410	+5	1.4	0.3	21.1
160	77	Attwoods PLC	138	● ..	5.0	3.6	18.9
57	25	Ault & Wiborg	34	..	1.2	3.5	11.4
641	433	Gt Univ Stores	621	+6	20.7	3.3	13.7
636	428	Do A	616	+6	20.7	3.4	13.6
146	86	Gripperrods	136	–2	6.6	4.9	6.2
173	83¾	Grosvenor Grp	164	..	7.5	4.6	10.1
186	115	GKN	170	+1	11.4b	6.7	20.5
138	79	H.A.T. Grp	105	–1	4.6b	4.4	14.1
198	108	HTV	197	..	15.7	8.0	7.0
167	82	Milletts Leis	125	..	9.9	7.9	..
137	31	Mining Supplies	37	..	0.1	0.4	..
55	31½	Mitchell Cotts	43½	..	5.2	11.9	9.7
56	17	Moben Grp	26	+1	0.4	1.4	7.4
30	17	Modern Eng	22	–6	..	..	..
183	98	Molins	120	+4	11.3	9.4	5.1
147	54	Monk A.	123	+1	8.6	7.0	5.1
236	125	Marks & Spencer	218	+1	7.6	3.5	21.5
77	35½	Marley PLC	75	..	3.9	5.1	31.9
51	29	Marling Ind	44½ ●	..	1.6	3.6	20.0
50	30	Marshall T Lox	32	..	..e	..	..
48	23	Do A	28½	..	..e	..	..
178	78	Marshalls Hlx	178	..	10.0	5.6	10.3
266	125	Martin News	143	..	8.7	6.1	6.4
288	213	Martonair	238	..	12.1	5.1	12.4
172	90	Matthews B.	157	..	7.9	5.1	5.5
99	59	May & Hassell	99	+1	5.4	5.5	7.5
80	53	Medminster	80	+3	6.3	7.9	7.7
368	215	Menzies J.	301	..	7.7	2.6	10.5
308	140	Metal Box	306	–2	17.6	5.8	12.2
58	33¼	Metalrax	46	..	3.1b	6.8	11.1
168	56	Meyer Int	144	–2	5.6	3.9	11.5
56	14	Staffs Potts	56	..	0.0	..	..
119	86	Stag Furniture	90	–3	7.1	7.9	24.3
88	49	Stakis PLC	88	+½	2.6	2.9	15.1
326	143½	Standard Tel	284	+4	9.6	3.4	23.0
74	32	Stanley A. G.	42	..	1.4	3.4	35.9
395	208	Steel Bros	385	..	17.1	4.5	9.0
232	127	Steetley Co	232	+7	10.0b	4.3	36.1
142	42½	Steinberg	129	e –1	2.9b	2.2	16.2
53	20	Streeters	20	h –1	..e	..	..
83	21	Strong & Fisher	75	..	..	..	22.3
265	91	Sunlight Serv	215	h ..	10.0	4.7	12.2
305	228	Superdrug	261	..	5.0b	1.9	30.9
45	17	Sutcliffe S'man	31	..	..e	..	13.8
88	23	Suter Elec	83	–2	2.9b	3.4	..
159½	62	Swire Pacific 'A'	131	–1	..	..	..
17¾	13½	TDK	15¾	..	9.2	0.6	26.4
182	90	TI Group	164	+8	10.7	6.5	..
166	14	TACE	138	..	4.3	3.1	46.3
108	34	TSL Therm Synd	39	+1	..	..	7.2
26	13	TSW	24	..	1.7	7.1	9.6



Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) December 15	Market rates (close) December 15	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.4150-1.4260	$1.4220-1.4230	0.15-0.20c disc	0.32-0.37c disc
Montreal	$1.7685-1.7800	$1.7760-1.7770	0.07-0.17c disc	0.17-0.27c disc
Amsterdam	4.38-4.43fl	4.41¾-4.42¾fl	1¼-¾c prem	3½-3¼c prem
Brussels	79.60-80.30f	80.20-80.30f	5-15c disc	27-37c disc
Copenhagen	14.15-14.26k	14.24½-14.25½k	160-273ore disc	385-490ore disc
Dublin	1.2600-1.2720p	1.2690-1.2710p	31-38p disc	86-99p disc
Frankfurt	3.90½-3.94½m	3.93½-3.94½m	1¼-¾pf prem	3¼-2¾pf prem
Lisbon	187.00-188.75e	188.00-188.50e	130-310c disc	465-875c disc
Madrid	225.00-227.00p	226.65-226.85p	215-240c disc	640-720c disc
Milan	2374-2385lr	2382½-2384½lr	14¼-16¾lr disc	44½-47½lr disc
Oslo	11.02-11.10k	11.08½-11.09½k	211-135ore disc	408-483ore disc
Paris	11.94-12.03f	12.00-12.01f	3-4c disc	11¼-12¾c disc
Stockholm	11.47½-11.56½k	11.55-11.56k	356-293ore prem	34-85ore disc
Tokyo	332-335½y	334-335y	71-54y prem	232-214y prem
Vienna	27.55-27.75sch	27.70-27.75sch	6-6gro prem	23-19gro prem
Zurich	3.12½-3.15½f	3.14¼-3.15¼f	1½-1c prem	4-3½c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was 82.0 up 0.2.

Money Market Rates

Other Markets

Australia	1.5760-1.5910
Bahrain	0.5330-0.5360

Dollar Spot Rates

Euro-$ Deposits

Gold

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Iddern Engineers of Bristol: Six months to June 30, 1983. No interim dividend (same). Figures in £000: Turnover 4,631 (4,047). Trading profit 3 (loss 22). No tax (same). Loss attributable 157 (287). Loss per share 5.2p (7.4p). Company has secured important design and management contracts, which extend into 1986.

Burco Dean: Year to Sept 30, 1983. No final dividend, making 0.1p (nil). Figures in £000: Turnover 17,389 (21,547). Pretax loss 697 (771 loss). Tax nil (same). Extraordinary income 747 (loss 395). Other taxes 5 (40). Profit for the year 45 (loss 1,206).

Danae Investment Trust: Half-year to Nov 30, 1983. Interim 1.75p (1.6p) a share. Group gross revenue, £324,622 (£287,430). Net revenue, £153,264 (£119,096). Earnings per share 2.19p (1.7p). Net asset value per income share 52.31p (43.16p).

Albion: Year to Sept 30, 1983. No dividend (same). Turnover £6,581m (£9,27m). Trading profit £80,950 (loss £748,160). Earnings per share 13p (loss 19.7p). Albion reports that current financial position has dramatically improved. Over the past year, the strengthening of the balance sheet has been the main priority.

Continuous Stationery: Six months to Sept 30, 1983. Interim 0.45p (same). Turnover £2.141m (£2.102m). Profits before tax £160,017 (£227,113).

Cooper Industries: Six months to Oct 31, 1983. Figures in £000: Turnover 9,344 (6,504). Pretax profit 207 (196 loss).

London Merchant Securities: Six months to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in £000: Net rental income from investment properties 5,207 (5,020). Energy loss 360 (loss 371). Other trading activities' profits 308 (28 profit). Profit before tas 3,551 (3,834). Comparisons restated to give effect to the change in accounting policy. Interim payment raised from 0.5p to 0.6p.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Record first half at Unigate

Two rather lean years have been put behind by Unigate, the milk to transport company, with half-year profits and every sign that the balance sheet will be looking much stronger by the year-end.

The results are reassuring in the face of perpetual worries about Unigate's reliance on its dairy business and the liquid milk market in particular.

The threat from chearp UHT milk from Europe has probably been overestimated though it is likely to see some increases in its current market share of only 1 per cent. The slow changeover from doorstep deliveries of daily pints to sales through supermarkets could be more serious although Unigate has a higher proportion of shop sales than most other milk companies.

With a £4m increase in profits from the dairy side – which includes the St Ivel range – first-half profits increased from £15.3m to £23.6m right at the top of market expectations.

The results were helped by a big increase from Wincanton, the transport division, although the rise is masked by an accounting change for the interest charge. The underlying improvement is a rise from £2.8m to £4.6m.

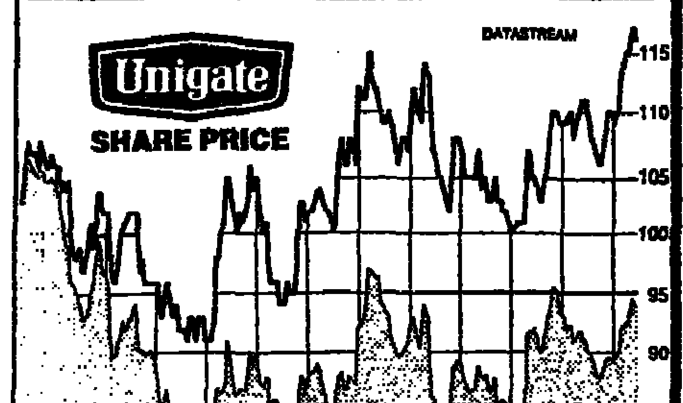
Gillspur, the exhibitions business bought two years ago, benefited from the stronger economy.

Overseas, Unigate says it is pleased with the Casa Bonita fast food restaurants bought in the US: last year they contributed about £5m of the total overseas profits of £12.5m. The contribution is already ahead this year and should rise further.

Although short-term borrowings have doubled to over £60m, largely attributable to the US operations, they are offset by cash balances of over £56m.

By the year-end cash flow should be neutral and positive during 1984. In the first-half of last year the cash outflow was £43m, of which £38m was capital expenditure. This time cash outflow was only £3m, even with capital expenditure totalling £30m. A Property revaluation for 1984 should show a substantial surlus because overseas property has not been revalued for several years.

Profits for the full year should easily top £50m against £43.7m. Meanwhile, the interim dividend has been increased from 2.5p to 2.75p.



English China Clays

English China Clay's £2m downturn in interim profits reported in June has been more than recovered in the second half.

Full-year pre-tax profits were £46.5m, against £43.5m last time, despite a turnround at the jointly owned seismic survey business, Horizon Expoloration, from attributable profits of £1.3m to losses of £2.2m.

Katalistiks International, an associated company, also lost considerably more money than last year, and the group's holiday camp business suffered from a big decline in bookings, profits plunging from a little over £2m to £240,000.

The group's main activity of mining and selling clay reported a small rise in profits, but the big aggregates business, benefiting from contract to supply the North Devon link and the Plymouth relief road building projects, recorded a £4m leap in profits to 13.3m.

The group's performance, however, was somewhat marred below the line by a much higher-than-normal tax charge caused mainly be a reduction in offsetting capital allowances.

Attributable profits were just under £28m; against £32.5m last time. This no doubt influenced the decision to increase the final dividend only slightly after the big rise in the interim payout. The total dividend is 8.75p, against 8.2p last time.

The outlook for the present year is good, with volume beginning to pick up quite smartly among English China Clays' main customers, the European paper industry, and there is just a chance that after more than two years of stagnation, china clay prices might rise this year. Profits of more than £55m look possible.

A revaluation of group assets has thrown up a surplus of £67m, which will make the company a much bigger bite for the likes of Rio Tinto-Zinc, should the long-rumoured takeover bid ever materialize.

AE

Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds will have to redo its sums if it wants to bid again for AE (the old Associated Engineering) when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reports in March.

AE yesterday announced a significant turnround in its fortunes last year. Pretax losses of £200,000 for the year ending September 1982 were turned into a £400,000 profit this year. But that does not do justice to its new strength. The company produced an operating profit of £14.2m on sales of £370m.

Mr John Collyear, the chairman, said: "The operating profit of the UK companies doubled in the second half, from £4.7m to £9.9m, and that trend has continued in the two months since then."

He said that the company would look at the £67m GKN bid, which lapsed on referral to the Commission in September, "as and when it comes up.

GKN has argued that the merger would have presented a "significant opportunity to restructure an important section of the UK automotive components industry to meet international competition". But Mr Collyear pointed to the international side of AE as being one of its strengths. The difficulties with loss-making South African subsidiaries had been largely overcome.

Hotels lead 200% rise in profits at Stakis

By Our Financial Staff

Pretax profits of Stakis, the hotels, casino and drinks company, rose last year by £2m to £6.4m. The company said that initial trading results for the current year indicatd that there would be continued profit growth in 1983-84.

Turnover of the Glasgow-based group, which has recently expanded into the London hotel business, was up from £88m to £99.8m for the year to October, and trading profit was up from £6.4m to £8m.

The hotels and inns division was the main contributor to the profits rise, with trading profit of £4.3m against £3.2m, and the casinos division showed trading profits up from £2.2m to £2.7m. The wines and spirits business recorded a fall from £1.04m to £864,000.

The rise in the hotels and inns figure was helped by an exceptional item gain of £542,000, arising from the sale of properties (last year the comparable figure was £342,000), and insurance claims of £55,000. The dividend is being increased to 1.45p at the final stage, making 2p for the year against 1.76p.

The company said that the tax charge of £866,000 (£314,000) had been reduced by overprovisions for previous years of £280,000. The company had a £7.8m rights issue in January this year.

Expansion pays off for M&G

By Jonathan Clare

M&G Group, Britain's second largest unit trust company, has reported record profits – up 65 per cent – after a big upturn in the shares of high-yielding and recovery sectors in which it invests. Profits increased from £3.6m to more than £6m and the total dividend for the year has been increased by one-third to 20p. The results are the best so far from the quoted unit trust companies.

M&G's unit trusts also increased substantially in value from £874m to £1,243m which represents about 11.5 per cent of the total market. A similar rate of growth this year could allow M&G to overtake Save & Prosper, the market leader.

The results reflect the good year experienced by the unit trust industry with better market conditions in certain countries, such as Britain, the US and Japan. The better results come as much from the expansion of M&G's business as from the rise in most world stock markets. The figures were also helped by the forecast improvement in M&G's insurance business where profits increased from £200,000 to £928,000 and funds managed by the group rose from £263m to £377m.

Earnings per share increased by 55 per cent from 26.2p to 40.6p.

Profits from M&G's own unit trusts increased from £2.2m to £4.1m. Profits from trusts administered for other people rose from £59,000 to £77,000.

Net assets per share increased from 143p to 218p.

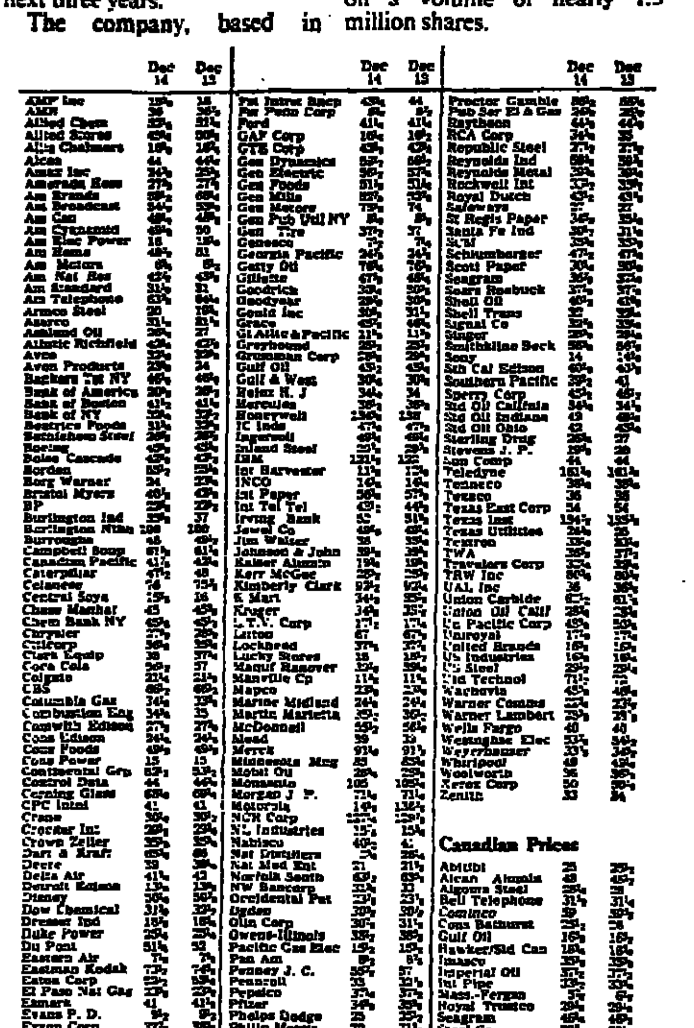
WALL STREET

New York (NYT)–Xerox is expanding its financial services business by acquiring Van Kampen Merritt, a privately owned investment banking concern.

The deal is worth $150m plus a contingent payment of as much as $68m based on Van Kampen's earnings over the next three years.

The company, based in Napierville, Illinois, has a flourishing business in packaging tax exempt municipal bonds into long-term unit investments.

Investors took the news in their stride. Xerox's stock reached a 52-week high on Tuesday, closing at 50 ¼, up ¾, on a volume of nearly 1.3 million shares.



• Ex div. a Asked c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Rubber in £s per tonne; Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton; Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

RUBBER	
Jan, Mar	850-51
Apr/Jne	862-63
Jul/Sep	872-73
Oct/Dec	882-84
Jan/Mar	892-94
Apr/Jne	902-05
Jul/Sep	912-15

SUGAR	
Mar	219.40-219.80
May	227.00-227.80
Aug	235.00-236.00
Oct	243.00-244.00
Dec	250.00-251.00
Mar	265.00-266.00
May	272.00-274.00

COCOA	
Dec	1846-50
Mar	1836-37
May	1822-23
Jly	1808-13
Sep	1792-95
Dec	1758-61
Mar	1755-58
Vol:	8,612

COFFEE	
Jan	2098-2105
Mar	1996-1998
May	1911-1914
Jly	1866-1870
Sep	1824-1828
Nov	1794-1798
Jan	1760-1761

GAS OIL	
Dec	239.75-240.50
Jan	241.00-241.25
Feb	238.75-239.00
Mar	235.50-235.75
Apr	232.25-232.50
May	231.00-231.50
Jne	231.25-231.75
Jly	231.25-233.00
Aug	228.25-234.75

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Unofficial prices; Official turnover figures.
Prices in pounds per metric ton. Silver in pence per troy ounce.
Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	984.00-85.00
Three months	1010.00-11.00
T/O	5100
Tone: Steadier.	
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	966.00-67.00
Three months	993.00-94.00
T/O	400
Tone: Quite.	
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	8760-70
Three months	8870-75
T/O:	300.
Tone: Steady.	
LEAD	
Cash	278.00-78.50
Three months	286.00-86.50
T/O:	9200.
Tone: Steady.	
ZINC	
Cash	585.50-86.50
Three months	601.00-01.50
T/O:	5900.
Tone: Steady. Quiet.	
SILVER LARGE	
Cash	651.5-52.0
Three months	667.0-68.0
T/O:	22
Tone: Quiet.	
SILVER SMALL	
Three months	667.0-68.0
T/O.	nil.
Tone: Idle.	
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	1071.00-72.00
T/O:	3,950
Tone: Steady.	
NICKEL	
Cash	3270-80
Three months	3355-60
T/O:	138
Tone: Steady.	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET
In US $ per oz.

Dec	388.00-392.00
Feb	394.00-394.20
Apr	399.60-401.00
June	405.50-407.80
Aug	412.00-415.00
Oct	418.00-421.00
Vol:	266
Tone: Quiet.	

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES
Rudolf Wolff Financial Services Ltd.

Month	Volume	Settlement
YEN		
Mar'84	49	4294
Jun'84	–	4334
Sep'84	–	–
Comment: Stable.		
STERLING		
Mar'84	206	14250
Jun'84	54	14275
Sep'84	1	14310
Comment: Slightly better.		
D-MARK		
Mar'84	40	3647
Jun'84	–	3685
Sep'84		–
Comment: Continuing weak.		
SWISS FRANC		
Mar'84	3	4588
Jun'84	–	4654
Sep'84	–	–
Comment: ??????.		
EURODOLLARS		
Mar'84	1333	8938
Jun'84	238	8907
Sep'84	69	8888
Dec'84	–	8862
Mar'85	–	8836
Comment: Steady.		
SHORT STERLING		
Mar'84	1132	9019
Jun'84	238	8999
Sep'84	69	8970
Dec'84	–	8962
Comment: Mixed.		
GILTS		
Dec'83	107	10825
Mar'84	2929	10725
Jun'84	–	10712
Sep'84	–	10651
Dec'84	–	10618
Comment: Firmer.		

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Dec. 15:
GB: Cattle, 101.08p per kg lw (+1.69).
GB: Sheep, 154.26p per kg est d c w (-1.39).
GB: Pigs, 79.56p per kg lw (-0.42).
England and Wales:
Cattle nos. down 6.1 per cent, ave. price, 101.34p (+2.20).
Sheep nos. up 0.7 per cent, ave price, 156.42p (-0.16).
Pig nos. up 17.2 per cent, ave. price, 79.56p (-0.42).
Scotland:
Cattle nos. up 24.5 per cent, ave. price, 100.26p (-0.14).
Sheep nos. up 21.4 per cent, ave. price, 148.93p (-3.93).

London Grain Futures Market

Month	WHEAT Close	BARLEY Close
Jan	£120.90	121.00
Mar	£123.55	123.45
May	£126.55	125.20
Jly	£129.45	–
Sep	£113.20	111.05
Nov	£116.00	114.00

Total lots traded
Wheat B: 111.
Barley: 49.

Triefus
Year to 30.6.83
Pretax Loss £1.2m (£108,000)
Turnover £9.8m (£12.2m)
Net interim dividend None (same)

Wight Collins Rutherford Scott
Half-year to 31.10.83
Pretax profit £204,000 (£121,000 loss)
Stated earnings 302p
Turnover £906m (£6.6m)
Net interim dividend 1.25p

Shaw Carpets
Half-year to 28.10.83
Pretax profit £722,000 (£142,000)
Stated earnings 2.4p (0.5p)
Turnover £20.3m (£18.5m)
Net interim dividend 1p (nil)

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	†10¼%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	*9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 5¾%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 6¾%; £50,000 and over, 7¾%

APPOINTMENTS

New chiefs at Banking Corporation

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation: Mr William Purvis, at present executive director Banking, will succeed Mr P. E. Hammond as deputy chairman next May. Mr Robert Farrell, at present group staff controller, will join the board, also in May, as an executive director. Mr Hammond will retire at the ordinary yearly general meeting on May 8.

Martin The Newagent: Mr Bill Mitchell will join the board as personnel director from January 16.

Crescent Japan Investment Trust: Mr Ian Macdonald will join the boards of Crescent Japan and New Tokyo Investment Trust on January 1.

The English Association Trust: Mr James Cave will be a director from January 19. He will be in charge of the investment division and will be the managing director of The English Association Investment Management.

Maersk Company: Mr A. B. Marshall has been appointed vice-chairman.

Wells Fargo Bank: Mr Richard Borda, executive vice-president, has been made head of the Europe/Africa/Middle East division, headquartered in London. He succeeds Mr William Wright.

Save & Prosper Investment Management: Mr Chris Tracey is to be managing director.

Argyll Group: Following the completion of the merger of Argyll Foods and Amalgamated Distilled Products, Mr C. D. Smith will be group financial controller and company secretary and Mr P. A. Frendo group financial controller of Argyll Foods and finance director of Argyll Stores in place of Mr Smith. Mr J. P. Kinch is appointed assistant group company secretary of Argyll Group and company secretary of Argyll Foods and of Amalgamated Distilled Products.

National Bedding Federation: Mr Patrick Quigley has become chief executive.

Singer & Friedlander: Mr B. D. F. Mansfield has been appointed a managing director and Mr W. H. Wright a local director from January 1.

Opposition grows to the President's unwillingness to tackle the huge US deficit

The world waits for Reagan to defuse an economic time bomb

The United States budget deficit is at record levels, and is almost universally regarded by politicians and economists in Europe as the single most important barrier to sustained worldwide economic recovery. Influential critics both inside and outside the Reagan Administration are adding their voices to the criticism of Mr Reagan's economic policy. But 1984 is an election year, with Mr Reagan now having declared himself as a candidate. BAILEY MORRIS in Washington assesses the political climate for this crucial economic debate.

How long is too long to wait in correcting the crippling world effects of a huge United States budget deficit projected at $200 billion and above for the next five years?

Four months ago, flushed with the success of recovery, no one in Washington was asking this provocative question.

But in recent weeks, as concern has grown, the US deficit has come to be regarded as an economic time bomb which must be defused before it explodes.

But when? Can action by Congress and the Reagan Administration wait until after the elections in 1985 as the President has proposed? Increasingly, and in louder voices, a bi-partisan group of officials and economists has said no.

What is wrong with waiting until 1985 to take the politically unpopular step of raising taxes and cutting domestic programmes to reduce the deficit?

In the words of Mr Martin Feldstein, the President's outspoken economics adviser, the problem is this: "The longer you wait, the more difficult it is for the economy to absorb the kinds of changes in government spending and taxes.

Enacting the budget in 1985 rather than now would inevitabley mean a slow phase-in of deficit reductions and, therefore, a more unbalanced recovery, Mr Feldstein said. This would lead to less capital formation, bigger increases in the national debt and, eventually, higher interest rates.

It is precisely these fears which fuel the growing opposition among Republicans who





Martin Feldstein (left) and Robert Dole (centre): two vociferous critics of Reagan.

swept to victory during the last presidential elections on the promise of a balanced budget and sustained economic growth.

Mr Robert Dole, the powerful chairman of the Senate finance committee, is prominent among them. Despite strong White

> 'Delaying reducing the budget will lead to a less balanced recovery'

House opposition, he held an unusual set of hearings last week to focus national attention on the threatened budget deficits.

"I regard the deficit as the most important domestic issue facing Congress and I fear there is a real danger of political stalemate in the coming year," Mr Dole said.

In the Dole camp and elsewhere, there is the perception that President Reagan is playing his political fiddle while the US economy burns. They note that in doing nothing, the President has repeatedly stated his belief that the deficit would go away in time as the recovery continues.

The President's critics fear that the recovery will go up in smoke if action is not taken now to reduce the deficits in 1986 and the years beyond.

They foresee a steady rise in the deficit to $280 billion by fiscal 1989. Interest payments on this extra debt alone are estimated to be in the neighbourhood of $30 bn – $100 bn a year.

According to Mr Feldstein: "Just to finance that additional interest would require a tax increase at 1988 levels of 15-20 per cent on top of the personal income taxes which are already in place."

For these outspoken remarks, Mr Feldstein was very nearly fired a fortnight ago by White House officials who ordered him to keep his views to himself in the months ahead.

But other equally prominent economists have taken up this cause.

Mrs Alice Rivlin, an econo-

> Various efforts to cut the deficit are predicted to get nowhere

mist who recently stepped down as director of the Congressional Budget Office, said: "Waiting until 1985 to take action on the deficit entails the risk of having to wait until after the next new recession. By 1985, growth will have slowed substantially and perhaps even turned negative."

Mrs Rivlin's successor, Mr Rudy Penner, a highly respected Republican economist with strong ties to the Reagan administration, last week said more or less the same thing. According to Mr Penner: "The mathematics are in place for an explosion. The longer we wait the more serious the problem."

He estimated that the cost of financing the national debt will rise by $56 billion between fiscal years 1982 and 1986, and would exceed substantially the level of standby tax increases proposed by President Reagan in his 1984 budget.

Despite these repeated warnings, both President Reagan and Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Democraic leader of the House, have opposed strongly the interim deficit reduction programmes proposed by both parties for 1984.

Mr Dole has proposed a deficit package which would reduce it by $150 billion over four years through equal amounts of spending cuts and tax increases.

Earlier, a group of House Democrats tried and failed to build support for a programme of defence and social spending cuts coupled with tax increases for a total reduction of about $250 billion. Similar deficit reduction efforts will be proposed again when Congress reconvenes in January. But already it is predicted they will not get anywhere.

Mr Dole said: "Without strong leadership from both President Reagan and Mr O'Neill neither those who favour budget cuts nor those who favour tax increases will budge."

The Administration, now hard at work on its 1985 budget, has said it has little interest in an interim compromise package to be enacted in 1984. The result of this stalemate is likely to be a growing loss of confidence in the Administration's commitment to reducing the huge structural deficit predicted up to 1989.

This is expected to have an immediate effect, translating into a slower recovery in the US which would have negative effects in Europe and elsewhere.

According to Mr Feldstein: "If we saw a resolution of the budget situation now, the confidence that would create would make it possible to live with large budget deficits in 1984 and 1985. If we do nothing now, and the confidence is not there, then the actual performance of the economy in 1984 and 1985 is going to be much worse."

BET profits up a sharp 17%

By Philip Robinson

British Electric Traction, which takes in house building, newspapers, television and transport, yesterday reported a 17 per cent in pre-tax profits. It was the first significant increase for at least three years.

Announcing the figures, Mr Hugh Dundas, BET chairman, said: "In our last annual report I predicted that our pre-tax profits would start to climb away from their plateau."

For the six monthes to the end of last September group turnover rose 8 per cent to £610m on which pretax profits of £31.7m were earned against profits of £27m last time.

Profits were much in line with the predictions of market analysts and BET's price eased 1p to 265p. The price has risen this year from a low of 166p.

The sharp movement has been inspired by market expectations of a takeover bid since bidding for conglomerates looked like becoming fashion earlier this year.

Some analysts said yesterday that they did not believe BET would become a takeover target, but the threat has awakened the company from a six-year sleep during which full-year profits fluctuated between £60m and £70m.

This year's opening-half peformance implies full-year earnings of a record £80m. BET has raised the interim dividend by 21 per cent to 2.25p.

Most of the increased opening-half profit came from the group's construction interests where pre tax profits rose from £1.5m to £7.3m

Industrial services managed to push up profits from £7.2m to £7.9m, while BET's transport interests rose 26 per cent to £7.6m. However, in electronics, which includes BET's stake in Rediffusion, pre tax profits fell by more than a fifth to £6.1m. Profits in publishing are unchanged at £1.9m and leisure sector profits increased by 26 per cent

Last month, BET announced a £300m Wembley development in partnership with a specially formed consortium.

Market listing for McCarthy & Stone

By Jonathan Clare

McCarthy & Stone, the builder of sheltered housing for the elderly, is to get a full stock market listing 18 months after it made its debut on the Unlisted Securities Market. The company is also asking its shareholders for more than £12m to finance a big expansion plan during the current year.

Last year McCarthy, which enjoys a high stock market rating because of the lead it holds in its specialist market, increased its profits from £2.1m to £3.7m.

The better than expected results follow much higher sales than expected of its flats for the elderly. After selling 189 flats in the first half, sales accelerated sharply in the second half to 303 with a similar rate of growth expected this year. The growth is the result of increasing demand for this type of housing and of McCarthy's increased geographical coverage which is now almost nationwide.

The rights issue will reduce the stakes held by the McCarthy and Stone families from 76 per cent to 62 per cent. The cash is likely to be quickly eaten up by developments and gearing could be 90 per cent by the end of the year.

Sales of flats during the first three months of the current year totalled 195 compared with just 85 for the same period last time.

The field is becoming more competitive with some of the big house builders like Barratt moving in but McCarthy is ready to manage developments on their behalf.

It is also considering building nursing homes for the elderly which would accommodate old people who become too infirm to live in the standard flats.

The dividend has been increased from 2p to 3.5p. The yield is only 1.4 per cent with the shares down 5p at 365p. The terms of the rights issue are one to four at 300p.

Trippier backs expansion fund

By Jonathan Clare

Mr David Trippier, the minister for small business, has given a powerful personal endorsement to a new community-based fund set up to pump cash into local businesses in North East Lancashire using the Business Expansion Scheme.

Mr Trippier said that the new fund, which is in his own constituency of Rossendale and Darwen, is the first fund to be set up in the spirit of the Chancellor's intentions when he announced the Business Expansion Scheme had so far been monopolised by the big funds. He hoped that by February there would be two or three more locally-based funds set up under the initiative of local enterprise agencies.

Since the Business Expansion Scheme was announced last March, 27 City-based funds have been set up to take advantage of the generous tax concessions it makes available. But many of these schemes have been criticised for the high management charges, the cost to the companies which use their cash and frequent demands for options over the shares and a seat on the board. The new fund, the Valleys of Enterprise Trust Fund (VET), is run by local businessmen who draw no salary for this work. It intends to invest £500,000 in local firms. Investors will pay no initial management charge, although there will be a half-yearly administration charge of one per cent.

The VET scheme has been set up jointly by the Rossendale enterprise Trust and the Blackburn and District Enterprise Trust.

Mr Trippier also suggested that it might be possible to set up similar schemes in rural areas such as the South West, throught the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (Cosira).

The VET scheme already has £250,000 promised and expects to be fully invested by April when the tax year ends. Individuals are expected to invest between £20,000 and £100,000.

Most of the big funds only consider investments in "big" small firms, unless they are particularly exciting "greenfield" projects which carry high risks and high rewards. They would not normally invest less than £100,000 which cuts off finance to [illegible]



Les Seeney (left) with Douglas Herbison and Professor John Dawson

Small retailers set for a fairer deal

By Derek Harris

There is good news this week for the small retailer who feels that he gets far less attention from government than the manufacturers who are in the minority among small businesses.

There are moves in the EEC which could go some way to shifting the balance in favour of the shopkeepers with a prospective impact in Britain as much as elsewhere in the Community. It comes as the British Government has indicated in its White Paper on regional policy that more help will now be channelled towards the services sector although how far this will be extended to retailing as such has yet to be clarified.

EEC financial aid programmes, will for the first time cover the service industries, including retailing.

There also appears to be a fair wind, with endorsement by the Council of Ministers still to come, for a code of conduct on small and medium-sized businesses which would lay an obligation on Brussels and national governments to make sure that policies do not actively harm small business operations.

The moves were welcomed as a long overdue shift of policies by Mr Douglas Herbison, secretary general of the European Confederation of Retailing, who is also manager of European operations for the Retail Consortium, trade body for more most of Britain's retailers.

He was chairing this week in London the third of five regional conferences organised by the Consortium on problems of small and medium-sized retailers and EEC funded as part of the European Year of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. He said: "Clearly the EEC is more aware now of the importance of retailing in the context of helping small businesses and perhaps rather more than is the British Government."

One upshot of the five conferences will be an analysis of small retailers' problems and so far the list looks similar to that drawn up by the National Chamber of Trade (NCT), according to Mr Herbison. Disparity of discounts as between those commanded by big multiple grocery chains and the little man is one. Another is the need for vocational training schemes for the many going into retailing with no grasp of what they are taking on. More exemptions from Valued Added Tax are widely called for.

High rents and the local authority rates based on them are one of the biggest problems, according to Mr Les Seeney, director general of the NCT. He said: "Small businesses are being squeezed out, including the small specialist retailers which offer things the big chains cannot."

He argues there is a social argument for positive discrimination in favour of the smaller outlets, with specific allocations to them in shopping developments with reasonable rent and rate levels.

Numbers of small retailers have been falling for years, with the rate of decline quickening in the seventies, followed by some limited evidence of a slower decline over the past three years, according to John Dawson, professor of distributive studies at the University of Stirling.

The dynamism of the sector comes out in the high annual birthrate of 25,000. But death rates are nearly the highest for any sector.

Reversing the decline in small retailing businesses depends more on altered attitudes among those running the businesses than on direct Government policy, he suggests. But he adds: "Government initiatives could well provide the tonic to speed recovery."

Why small businesses don't grow into big businesses

First priority for the Small Business Research Trust, which was formally launched this week with backing among others from the Bank of England, will be investigating the size, shape and performance of the small business sector, *Derek Harris writes.*

"There just is not enough information available to allow [illegible] small businesses or to allow evaluation of the effectiveness of measures that are intended to revitalise the sector," says Bert Nicholson, the Trust's research secretary.

The Trust has been getting into its stride since March with backing also from Bass, National Westminster Bank, J Sainsbury, Shell UK and Trus[illegible] funding is £150,000 and it is already supporting a pilot survey in Scotland.

The Trust earned a stamp of approval from Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, when he made the formal launch this week; the research should help the Government as well as business [illegible]

In its first strategy paper the Trust this week suggested that the major problem to be tackled will probably be why Britain has relatively few small businesses, and why a low proportion of them grow.

Contact: Small Business Research Trust, 3 Dean Trench Street, Westminster, London [illegible]

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Pressure to push up loan limit

■ Changes in the small firms loans guarantee scheme, including widening its scope more to medium-sized enterprises, are being called for by the Small Business Bureau, writes Derek Harris.

Michael Grylls, the Bureau chairman, who is Tory MP for Surrey North West, is pressing the case in the House of Commons, urging that the upper loan limit under the scheme should go from £75,000 to £250,000.

"This would allow medium-sized businesses with their greater capital needs to benefit from the scheme with the bonus that such companies because of their greater size would tend to generate more jobs than a smaller business," said Mr Grylls.

He is also urging that the 3 per cent premium charged on loans should be abolished. Under the scheme 80 per cent of a loan advanced by a bank is guaranteed by the Government.

The loan guarantee scheme is running on an experimental basis at present and a review is going on to decide its future beyond next May. The number of guarantees given under the scheme since June 1981 is now around 13,000 with well over £400m advanced.

■ British Institute of Management has put together an easy-to-understand guide to setting up in business. The approach is a nuts-and-bolts one covering all the key considerations from finance sources and marketing to accounting systems and taxation. It explains how to put together a business plan.

The guide comes as a pack with additional guidelines on where to get help and advice, with a series of checklists for detailed aspects of a new business. It costs £5.50 including postage.

MR FRIDAY Ken Pyne



'Telling me I was ineligible for a MSC training course is the only favour the government has ever done for me'

Contact: Gillian Collingridge, British Institute of Management, Management House, Parker Street, London WC2B 5PT; telephone (01) 405 3456.

■ Merging of the Clothing and Knitting Export Councils into a single body, the Clothing Export Council, has resulted in a comprehensive service being offered to members on export sales and marketing. A buyer service is being specially strengthened.

Contact: Clothing Export Council, Academy House, 26-28 Sackville Street, London W1X 2QT: telephone (01) 434 1881.

■ A successful 18-month pilot scheme in Huddersfield has prompted Armitage & Norton, one of the top 20 chartered accountants by fee income, to start extending a low-price "nursery" scheme for giving accountancy help to new small businesses. The Leeds-based accountants, with a nationwide network of offices, are extending the scheme to other outlets in the North East at Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, and Leeds. A further extension to other offices in the North West, Scotland, the Midlands and the South, is likely in the near future.

Until a business is established, when it reaches the stage of appointing a full-time accountant, all rates charged are at a discount. First consultations, often involving a day including visits, are free. The aim initially is to create a book-keeping system providing key management information tailored to the individual business.

The bank manager with a foot in the door

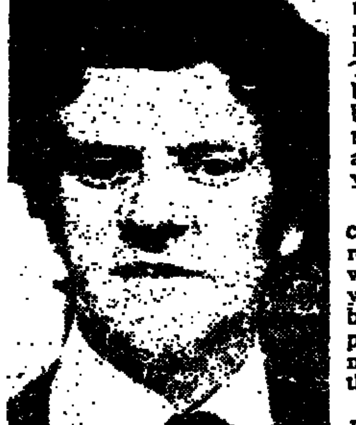
By Wayne Lintott

The problems of small businesses seeking to expand are legion but a straw poll of companies on the Unlisted Securities Market (USM) and merchant banks and venture capital advisers shows that the biggest cause of insolvency is under-capitalization at the time of the first phase of major expansion.

The other big problem is poor marketing research coupled with a too-strong dependency on a local clearing bank.

CPU Computers is a respected company within the USM market, having grown from a black bank account over the last ten-years. Its principal business is the distribution of computer components but it has recently begun manufacturing its own business computer. In the last financial year turnover reached £20m and pretax profits rose 56 per cent to £1.35m. Some time over the next financial year the company intends seeking a full stock market listing.

Mr Tom Fitzpatrick, is joint chairman and co-founder, and the thought of reflecting back



Tom Fitzpatrick: the way to find the money

over his initial problems causes a wry smile. "In year one we had trouble getting any form of bank support at all. We were offered overdraft facilities of £3,000 rising to £5,000 if we both put our houses up as security. I can't repeat our reply to a family newspaper."

So Mr Fitzpatrick took the opposite tack. "Our solution was to write out a business plan showing our ideas, where we wanted to go, how much it would cost and our overdraft need of £15,000. Then we just walked round every clearing bank branch in Woking, Surrey, until we found a NatWest manager prepared to support us. In the end we didn't use it, but it gave the necessary credit references for our suppliers. Once we had that and coupled it [illegible]

Since then the company has made the choice not to expand meteorically with the market. He offers two pieces of advice. The first: don't grow on borrowed money. The second: build up the staff and infrastructure on money already earned and don't buy in staff on what you might achieve.

"Everyone goes on about cash flow management. But the reality is that that is the only way to do it successfully. Once you are indebted to the local bank manager, the internal pressures are enormous. The man never has his foot out of the door," he said.

Much the same problem faces James Hay Pension Trustees. They run a private company whose shares are currently being placed by stockbrokers Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee to its private clients.

Since the Government recently allowed self-administered company pension funds to invest 50 per cent in the business, plant and offices, demand has really rocketed.

Mr John Bevan, the chairman, says his company's problem was not so much money as the internal infrastructure to support the expansion. "After we moved up to London (from Cardiff) we found ourselves getting involved in all kinds of projects for our clients. BES schemes, joint-developments and the like until one day we discovered we just weren't meeting our targets for new business."

After re-stressing their [illegible] building up the administrative structure to support the expansion. Once again from money earned, not money borrowed.

Of the forms of financing available to the company, James Hay chose equity rather than bank loans. Having done that, they have similarly prepared a three-year plan that is flexible enough to allow for delays on receivables.

"You know what the minimum receivables are going to be and, no matter what you hope for, you have to work on that figure and no other," Mr Bevan said.

Mr Charles Duff, a director at Venture Founders, whose £12m fund for new start-ups and pure greenfield projects was recently launched, stressed the importance of a business plan and defining a narrow market in which to operate.

His company has a client that entered into a dramatic expansion and rapidly became insolvent. The rescue money amounted to £2m. Luckily, that company had Venture behind it and the money was raised from City institutions with the necessary management back-up hired in.

But that is a rare occurance. All too often a company will be able to raise the capital to get off the ground only to find that the second tranche of much needed cash is either difficult to get or comes with too many strings.

● *Next Week looks at the dos and dont's of presenting a business plan, raising money [illegible] professional advisers.*

CRICKET

W Indies in new trouble after Kallicharran's resignation

Alvin Kallicharran, one of the West Indies' leading batsmen on their unofficial tour of South Africa, yesterday added to his side's mounting problems by resigning as vice-captain. Kallicharran said he would continue playing with the team but would leave the country as soon as the tour finished at the end of January.

"It's a personal decision," Kallicharran said. "I spoke with my wife and she is my best adviser." Kallicharran's departure means he will break his contract with Transvaal, the provincial side he has played for during the past two years.

The West Indies' tour, made in defiance of international boycotts of South Africa, has already been troubled by financial disagreements as well as the incident when Colin Croft, the fast bowler, was ordered of a whites-only train carriage.

The incidentr, widely reported in the West Indian press, provoked only hilarity among Croft's team-mates. But a row over sponsorship has ended the good-natured rivalry which marked the West Indies' first unofficial tour earlier this year and replaced it with with a bitterness which is evident both on and off the field.

The West Indies captain, Lawrence Rowe, says: "Things can never be the same again." The bitterness of the touring team, who felt they were being robbed of extra cash when they were denied an opportunity to arrange their own sponsorship, spilled on to the pitch a week ago in their first one-day match against South Africa.

Heated exchanges during play were frequent and the South African captain, Peter Kirsten, said later: "There were a lot of things going on out there." Tempers were even more frayed off the field. Joe Pamensky, the South African Cricket Union (SACU) precident, stormed out of the West Indian dressing room last week after a row with Rowe. The West Indian retaliated by ordering his players not to wear a maroon strip provided for them and then threatening to call off the tour.

A last-minute agreement by a local company to provide sponsorship of 250,000 rand (£138,000) saved the tour but failed to heal the rift. "I'm very unhappy about it," Rowe said. "We never thought anything like this could happen."

Neither Rowe nor the cricket union are saying exactly what the point at issue is, except that it is over money. But Pamensky is known to be expremely concerned at the poor finances. The SACU lost more than half a million rand on two previous tours involving English and Sri Lankan teams and without part of the sponsors' money going to the SACU the outlook for future unofficial tours would be bleak.

Pamensky said the match bonuses from the sponsorship make this the most lucrative cricket series in the world but Rowe and several of the touring team remain dissatisfied. Under the arrangements, roughly 180,000 rand (£105,000) will go to the SACU to help meet tour expenses with the remainder being split in prize-money between the two sides.

In another apparent demonstration of his unhappiness, Rowe has left himself out of two successive matches. This would appear far from satisfactory, especially as he is in need of practice for the major matches starting shortly.

Pamensky's anxiety over money is understandable. He estimates the cost of the two West Indian tours at over five million rand (£2.9m) and only sponsorship through the SACU along with gate takings and other spin-otts can make them profitable.

Pamensky refused to say what the touring team were being paid because we have a gentleman's agreement to keep it confidential. "I would dearly like to spell it out because it would clear the air", he said. "All I can say is that the pay packets match the scales now paid at international level."



Kallicharran: turning his back on vice-captaincy

Imran returns to captaincy

Hobart (AFP) – Imran Khan will lead the Pakistan team, for the first time on their Australian tour, in the three-day match against Tasmania, starting here today.

Imran, who has been unable to lead his team in the previous 10 matches because of a stress fracture of the shin, has emphasized that he will not risk bowling, at least until after the five-Test series against Australia.

The Pakistanis will be without Sarfraz Nawaz, who has a slightly strained side.

Indians' wrath at defeated team

Delhi (Reuter) – India's parliamentarians and newspapers have called for the resignation of cricket officials and wholesale changes in the team after India's crushing defeat by West Indies in the fifth Test match in Calcutta.

Indian followers' frustrations boiled over at the Eden Gardens ground on Wednesday after West Indies won by an innings and 46 runs to take a winning 3-0 lead in the six-Test series. Calcutta's *Telegraph* newspaper yesterday quoted eyewitnesses as saying enraged fans hurled stones, bottles, oranges and tomatoes and shouted abuse at the Indian players after the match.

They attacked a bus carrying the Indian side back to their hotel, breaking windows and injuring the middle order batsman, Ashok Malhotra, and team manager, Abbas Ali Baig.

India's captain, Kapil Dev, was a particular target. Bottles and oranges were thrown at him while he was bing interviewed with his opposite number Clive Lloyd, by local television.

In an editorial, the *Telegraph* blamed officials of India's cricket board for organizing tours during the close season and the bad selection of players. "The same team which had been welcomed by delirious crowds waving garlands . . . was yesterday pelted with stones", the *Telegraph* said. "A team which had stunned the world by becoming undisputed world champions (in the World Cup) . . . has the Indian cricket lover equally stunned at the pits it has dipped to."

● RADELL – The first limited over international between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe was rained off here yesterday (Agence France-Presse reports).

RUGBY UNION: LONDON UNIVERSITY DOMINATE AFTER AN UNCERTAIN START

Carrying banner for developing area

By Gerald Davies

Tomorrow the Welsh Cup, sponsored by Schweppes, reaches the second round and as always at this stage it is those matches between the large and small clubs that will arouse the most interest, particularly those where the smaller club has had the good fortune to be drawn at home. In this respect, there are a few of such matches which could spring a surprise or two.

In the case of Wrexham, who play at home to Neath, there is a good deal else at stake. They are the only North Wales side remaining in the competition and they therefore carry the flag for an area which would like to see a club develop to a higher status.

Wrexham are considered to be the strongest side in the north, although Ruthin might care to dispute that. Fixtures against the senior clubs of the south are rare – they did travel to Tredegar earlier in the season, and beat them – and it is only in the cup competition that these matters can truly be contested. A good run in the cup is one way of lending strength to their requests for more regular contests.

For tomorrow's match they will be motivated, no doubt, by the memory that having travelled to Neath in 1978, they lost by, for them, the encouraging margin of 22 pts to 12. The game there is developing to an extent that as a representative team in the competition, North Wales have reached the final of the Welsh County Championship.

A home draw makes a difference to the attitude of both sides. Last year, for instance, Tenby United were drawn to visit Llanelli at Stradey. Knowing the advantages were so much in the Scarlets' favour and not expecting to win, Tenby admit treating the occasion as a day's outing. They lost 44 pts to 15. Tomorrow Tenby are drawn at home to Abaravon and they sniff victory. The visitors who are not having a consistent season, despite their victory against the steadily improving Newport last week, will have their work cut out.

Maesteg will have similar misgivings about their visit to Abercynon, as will Cardiff at Treorchy. Cardiff, with two satisfying victories on the last two Saturdays, have shown a resurgence of interest in the kind of attacking rugby which they were loath to play earlier in the season. Part of the reason has been the continuing improvement of the centre partnership of Ring and Donovan. With two players able to create things in midfield means that the wings have more freedom.

Of the fixtures between the first class clubs the one between Swansea and Cross Keys is the main attraction. The two clubs met at this stage last year and Swansea won easily by 37 pts to nil. Their fortunes have changed somewhat this year, having already lost nine games. Cross Keys, who, on the other hand, are gradually improving, lost by only 10 pts to 3 at St Helens

Exiles contribute to the Welsh downfall

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

London University 23
Welsh Universities 16

London University recovered well from an uncertain start – an uncertainty made worse by the late arrival of two of their number – to beat the Welch Universities by two goals, two tries, and a penalty goal to a try, two penalties and two dropped goals at Motspur Park yesterday. It will not have been lost on the Welsh student selectors present that much of the damage to their cause was done by two London Welshmen.

London dominated the lineout completely, largely through Collins and Morris, their captain, both of whom play their club rugby at Old Deer Park. Even the loss of Felsing in the second half did not hinder them unduly, though it did detract from their drive at the set scrums, which caused the Welsh some embarrassment.

Injury and unavailability meant that the Welsh were without five of their leading players, while London were missing Envoldson and Paige, who were both involved in examinations. The replacements on both sides however performed creditable and contributed much to an exciting game in which London slowly climbed back from a seven-point deficit.

It was not until midway through the second half that London finally took the lead. The Welsh students roared into the game with seven points in the first 10 minutes, Cleary scoring a try and Thomas dropping a goal from a tapped penalty. Most of the loose possession went their way at this stage and though Walsh, who huffed and puffed into the ground two minutes before the kick-off recovered a penalty Clinch, the assured Welsh full-back, kicked another dropped goal.

Once they began to get some good possession however the London backs ran with freedom. Vaux, an Australian centre, showed some neat touches and Hammersley found the gaps, sending Newington over for an unconverted try before the interval. Clinch kicked a penalty after the break but Walsh, who offered his side much inspiration from the back, scored an individual try and conversion to level the score.

The Welsh midfield passing began to break down and London edged away with tries from Hammersley and Farrer, the second converted by Walsh. Clinch kicked the final penalty but it was merely a defiant gesture.

SCORERS: London University: Tries: Newingtron, Walsh Hammersley, Farrer. Conversions: Walsh (2). Penalty: Walsh. Welsh Universities: Try: Cleary. Penalties: Clinch (2). Dropped goals: G Thomas, Clinch.

LONDON UNIVERSITY: D Walsh (Royal Free); R Ford (Royal Holloway), D Vaux (London Business School), C Hammersley (Westminster), D Newington (St Thomas's); J Farrer (University College Hospital), S Venning (Royal Holloway); N Emberton (St Mary's), A Gilfillan (Queen Mary College), L Gould (Westminster), P Davies (Westminster), N Felsing (King's, rep A Menkielow, Royal Free), J Collins (Westfield), J Eason (Middlesex), J Morris (Royal Free, captain).

WELSH UNIVERSITIES: N Clinch (Aberystwyth); M Tyrral (UWIST), I Jefferies (Swansea), J Robinson (Cardiff), N Cleary (UWIST); G Thomas (Aberystwyth), S Griffiths (UWIST); J Rowlands (Swansea), M Roberts (Swansea), J Jeficoat (Bangor), A Side (UWIST), H Nicol (Swansea), S Rodliffe (Swansea), D Gurnette (Bangor, captain), A Thomas (Swansea, rep J Morris, Cardiff).

Referee: A Trigg (London).

Crossan and MacNeill out of trial

By George Ace

Hugo MacNeill, the Oxford University captain and a Brtish Lion in New Zealand ealier this year, has, as expected, withdrawn from the Probables side in tomorrow's final Irish trial at Lansdowne Road. But MacNeill, who has a leg injury, is virtually certain to be named in the Irish President's XV who will meet Ulster under floodlights at Ravenhill on January 4.

In many respects the Ravenhill game will be regarded as a second final Irish trial. The team to meet France in Paris on January 21 in the opening match of the Five Nations Championship, will not be selected until after the Ulster game, for which Keith Crossan – another withdrawal from tomorrow's trial owing to a shoulder injury – has already been chosen.

MacNeill's place in the Probables goes to the Leinster captain of this season, John Murphy, with Roy Palmer, the Ulster full back who played on the left wing for the Ireland B side who lost to Scotland in Melrose last Saturday week, taking over from Murphy on the Possibles.

Crossan: shoulder injury

John MGeady switches wings in the Possibles, to take over from Crossan.

Moss Keane, the veteran international lock forward who has been having medical treatment for a back injury, is confident that he will be able to take his place in the Probables line up.

ULSTER: R Palmer (Collegians); T Ringland (Ballymena), D Irwin (Instonians, capt), A Irwin (Instonians), K Crossan (Instonians); I Brown (Malone), R Brady (Queen's University); J McCoy (Dungannon), J McDonald (Malone), D Wallace (Ballymena), P Matthews (Queen's University), J Rogers (Bangor), B McCall (London Irish), W Duncan (Malone), W Anderson (Dungannon).

Defeats of Zimbabwe provide yardstick

Schools rugby
by Michael Stevenson

It is a significant yardstick by which to measure the English schools' game that the attractive Zimbabwe touring side lost to both Cornwall & Devon and to Lancashire, before scoring two tries to one in their narrow 13-10 defeat by Scotland.

Rugby School have enjoyed a thoroughly satisfactory season, their last match ending in a 9-9 draw with Loretto, who had beaten Stowe 10-3 two days previously. Rugby's final record reads: played 13; won 8; drawn 1; lost 4. The fact that the forwards were responsible for 14 of the 21 tries scored, clearly indicates where the strength of the side lay and they suffered severe early dislocation owing to injuries.

Cleverly, who missed four matches, scored 55 points from a total of 148, and Rugby's master-in-charge of rugby, David Ray, summed up the season succinctly. "A little more poise at crucial moments might well have led to an unbeaten season; however the team had a few weaknesses, and their record is probably fair". This seems a magnanimous view, when one realises that their largest losing deficit was four points, and their three other losses were by a single point.

Uppingham also enjoyed a reasonably good season, losing only to Bedford and to Sedbergh, drawing three matches and winning six, while RGS Worcester, who beat Bablake 15-7 last Saturday, ended with the eminently creditable record: played 18; won 16; drawn 1 (v Warwick School); and lost 1 (v King Henry VIII, Coventry).

Trent College were more than a little affronted by our encomiums with regard to Silcoates, whom they defeated shortly after the relevant piece appeared, by 30 points to six. Trent have also had a respectable season, winning nine matches out of 13 and, in the process, have scored 239 points, and conceded only 70.

They lost the first match of the season to Warwick, and conceded three tries; since that setback they have had only two tries scored against them in 12 matches. Other defeats were against Bromsgrove and Nottingham High School. Last Saturday, they beat Worksop 17-0, with Smith, Fox and Hooper scoring tries, and the stand-off half, Doleman, converting one and kicking a penalty.

Bride and gloom

The wedding of their British Lion, Steve Bainbridge, on Saturday has given his club, Gosforth, selection problems for their match at Nottingham. Bainbridge a second row, will have Brian Patrick, fullback, Steve Gustard, a centre and Jon Curry, a prop, as guests at the wedding, and injuries have ruled out their wings, Derek Briggs and Jim Pollock, and the flanker Simon Edwards.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

1982/83 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Insurance Bonds and Funds

1982/83 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL

Limited choice enables Wales to discover a bond with ironic timing

By David Miller

The narrowing of the margin in quality between the traditionally more powerful international teams of England and Scotland and the less fancied Wales and Northern Ireland is wholly predictable, an inevitable development from the existing state of football.

It makes the Anglo-Scottish abandonment of the British championship particularly ironic, at the very moment when Bobby Robson and Jock Stein, his position under increasing doubt, find themselves regarding their respective World Cup encounters over the next two seasons with Billy Bingham and Mike England with some genuine concern.

As the world wide graph of outstanding individual ability had declined in inverse proportion to the advanced tactical, defensive team organization, the performances of the passionately committed Irish and Welsh was bound to improve, in proportion to the English and Scots.

Wales, as they demonstrated so exhilaratingly on Wednesday night against Yugoslavia in the cliff-hanger of a European qualifying tie, possess the same mixed blessing advantage of a small squad as enjoyed by the Irish, whose victories over Spain in the World Cup and West Germany twice, in the present European competition have been highlights of the past two years.

Mike England, the Wales manager, said two significant things yesterday morning as he began the seven day wait to discover whether the roulette of the final match between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria in Split will break the right way for Wales. He observed that the Welsh team "are a bunch of friends", and that the little known, sparrow sized Nigel Vaughan had done the job he was asked in midfield: to stifle the Yugoslav Player of the Year Ivan Gudelj of Hajduk.

It is not that Scotland, currently lurching from one slump to another, or England, unbeaten in the last World Cup finals even if recently nailed at home by Denmark, are lacking squad friendship: It is that they have more players, and are tempted into more and often disadvantageous team changes in the elusive search for success, whereas Wales and Ireland are bonded by their own relative limitations.

We saw a commitment on Wednesday night which was at times astonishing as Wales came within nine minutes of triumph. Players made tackles, some of them barely legal, which were heroic rather than dirty. Thomas, of Stoke, somehow reached a through ball near the corner flag in the second half which it seemed impossible for him to catch. Willpower.

Average players, just as Hamilton, Armstrong and the Nicholls did for Ireland in Spain, now played above themselves. It was symptomatic of the era that Vaughan, a former schoolboy rugby standoff half should be preferred beforehand to the more stylish veteran Leighton James.

Modern managers talk more about players "doing a job" than about fantasy, which is of course partly what is wrong with the game.

Yugoslavia are part of the pattern, the same as England. Since 1945 the Yugoslavs have arguably produced more outstanding players, Pele and Carrincha accepted, than Brazil. Their manager Todor Veselinovic, succeeding Miljan Miljanic last year, has used over 50 players in one and a half seasons. They showed much more of the skill at Ninian Park, yet could not put it together and might have lost 3-1 if Flynn, Rush and substitute Jeremy Charles had taken their chances, and Rush ahd been given a penalty when pulled off the ball by his trousers six minutes from time.

Wales can still join France, Romania, West Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Portugal and the Netherlands or Spain in the finals if, next week, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria draw, or Bulgaria win 1-0. Bulgaria go through with a 2-0 win, Yugoslavia with any victory. A 2-1 win for Bulgaria will force a coin toss with Wales, who desperately need one of their three options in order to gain the financial stability offered by the finals.

The end of the British championship means, Mike England admits that they may have to pull out of the next under 21 tournament, the present competition having cost them £40,000. The disdain of their historic English neighbours has left them hanging on a thread and it is difficult to have sympathy with Bert Millichip's view that ending the championship strengthens the argument for individual, independent existence of the four home associations in the face of Afro-Asian opposition.

England pleads, like other British managers, for proper training opportunities before World Cup ties. There could be a simple answer. The Professional Footballers Association without whom there is no game should force the issue through negotiations with the Football League on a contractual basis.

Nobody wants professional players dominating administration as in tennis, but international success is vital to football in Britain, and if the PFA was properly organized and not dominated by financial selfishness among the best players, they could force the League into arranging a free week before internationals.



Waiting in suspense: England begins his week-long ordeal before Wales discover their fate

History on the minds of FA Cup part-timers

The crowning glory that lures the royal sons of Windsor

Recent history will hardly be on Windsor and Eton's side when they travel to Bournemouth for their FA Cup Second round replay on Monday night. In the last four seasons the Isthmian League club have twice played away to Football League opponents in the cup and have lost heavily on both occasions, 7-0 to Wimbledon and 7-2 to Brentford.

Yet ironically, Windsor's history and traditions are a great source of inspiration to the present team who are disputing with Bournemouth the right to a third round tie against mighty Manchester United. The club have royal connexions dating back to 1910 and their patron is the Duke of Edinburgh, who sent a "good luck" message to the team on Tuesday night.

Geoff Chapple, Windsor's manager, said: "It's the royal link that makes us unique. We're called the Royalists and we believe we're the only club in the country to wear a crown on our badge. The Duke of Edinburgh takes a close interest in us and we were thrilled when he came to our annual dinner last year."

A football club has existed in Windsor under various names since the 1870s and in the 1872-73 season Windsor Home Park competed in the second FA Cup competition. The present club were formed in 1902, when Windsor Phoenix amalgamated with Eton FC, and eight years later they moved to their present Stag Meadow ground, which is inside Windsor Great Park, within a mile of the Castle and rented from the Crown. The Duke of Edinburgh, who has occasionally watched matches from the directors box in Windsor's 350-seat stand, succeeded King George V and King George VI as patron.

The contrast between Stag Meadow (capacity 4,350) and Manchester United's Old Trafford



ground (capacity 58,000) could hardly be starker. If Windsor beat Bournemouth there would be no question of them staging the match against United, despite having been drawn at home. The tie would probably be switched to Old Trafford.

Yet it is remarkable for Windsor to be playing even in the second round of the Cup, for they are a small club by non-League standards alone. If the most successful semi-professional clubs such as Altrincham and Enfield are the non-League equivalents of Manchester United or Liverpool, then Windsor should be compared with the likes of Crewe Alexandra or Hartlepool United, for there are at least 80 clubs at non-League level of superior status to them.

Three seasons ago Windsor were playing in the Athenian League and in their first season in the Isthmian first division (after promotion from the second division) they are already favourites for promotion to the premier division. Of their last 15 matches they have won 13 and drawn two.

Much of the credit must go to Chapple, the manager, who as a player failed to progress beyond Aldershot's reserve team and went on to play for a number of Isthmian and Southern League clubs.

The players, who are paid only a few pounds a week, have a variety of jobs outside football. Bob King, the captain, earns more than most first division footballers as a money broker in the City and the side also includes an art director, a builder, a cost clerk, two decorators and a meat buyer for Sainsbury's.

None of them has played in the Football League, but three years ago Chris Yates, the leading scorer, turned down the chance of a professional career – ironically with Bournemouth – because of the lack of security.

Yates, aged 27, a British Telecom engineer, proved a handful for the Bournemouth defence on Tuesday and believes Windsor can still win.

Paul Newman



In for different reasons: Muhren (left) and Whiteside

United forced to rush Muhren

Manchester United have rushed Arnold Muhren back into their team against Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford tonight. The Dutch International has missed United's last four league and cup games since he aggravated his calf injury in the televised Sunday match at West Ham last month.

The United manager Ron Atkinson said: "Ideally I would have liked to give Muhren a run-out in the reserve team. But we have not got many alternatives."

Atkinson has already lost McQueen, who lost his race for fitness after damaging a hamstring against Ipswich last Saturday and he is not allowed to play Crooks. Atkinson has solved the problem at the back by switching Duxbury to McQueen's central defensive position, and moving Moses to fill out back with Muhren in midfield.

As Crooks is on the sidelines because of the condition of his loan from Spurs, Whiteside returns to the attack. "Games against Spurs are always attractive fixtures," Atkinson said: "This one is a genuine double header. I said at the start of the season that Spurs, Liverpool and ourselves were my tips for the championship and I see no reason to change that opinion.

"We have a four point buffer over Spurs and a win would give us a seven-point margin and put us top of the table. This will put extra pressure on Liverpool to bounce back to the top the following day."

Spurs have decided against hurrying Archibald back. As Spurs' leading scorer with 16, is troubled by a hip injury, Brazil continues to deputise, but there are likely to be two changes. Cooke will stand down for Galvin, who is set to play his first senior game for a month after being sidelined with a shin injury, and O'Reilly is at fight back for the injured Hughton. Ardiles might also make his first appearance of the season after fighting his way back to full fitness from a similar injury. He is the probable substitute. The little Argentine has played only four games in two years because of complications with his fractured shin.

"Ossie is almost 100 per cent it now following a few reserve outings and is looking fit and strong. We already have three changes because of injuries so this is the best way to bring him back to the league scene" Keith Burkinshaw, the Spurs manager said.

Galvin, Ardiles and the left wing Dick who has recovered from a thigh strain, all played in Wednesday's friendly at St Alban's to prove their fitness.

Telford can build on story so far

Telford United, having reached the FA Cup third round for the first time, have reason to believe they can progress further. Telford, of the Alliance Premier League, travel to Rochdale on January 7 and the fourth division table shows that Rochdale are below both Stockport County and Northampton Town, the two sides Telford have already knocked out.

A penalty by Mather 15 minutes from the end of their second round replay on Wednesday gave them a 3-2 victory over Northampton and their manager, Stan Storton, said: "Justice was done." Bailey and Williams put Telford 2-0 ahead, but the visitors hit back through Belfon and Jeffrey. Belfon committed the foul that produced the penalty.

Altrincham, also of the Alliance, went out 2-0 in their replay at Darlington, who must now entertain another non-League side, Maidstone United.

Oxford United, who play Manchester United in a Milk Cup fourth round, second replay on Monday, beat Reading 3-0. The third division leaders were in control throughout and scored through Brock, Vinter and McDonald. They will be away to either Chesterfield or Burnley in the third round.

UEFA acquit Inter Milan

Berne (Reuter) – UEFA yesterday dropped their investigation into a charge that an attempt was made to bribe the Dutch club Groningen. Their disciplinary committee ruled that Groningen had produced insufficient evidence for their allegation.

The Dutch club said a month ago that their trainer, Hans Berger, was offered 250,000 guilders (about £60,000) to ensure that they lost a UEFA Cup second round, second leg match against Inter Milan

The UEFA statement said there were grounds to believe that Apollonius Konijnenburg, a Dutch players' agent living in Venice, had sought to talk with Berger

Chelsea's Middle Eastern promise

The second division promotion contenders Chelsea have signed a £150,000 sponsorship agreement with Gulf Air. The deal involves Chelsea's management and professional staff flying to the Middle East areas served by Gulf Air to train and coach promising players.

The areas are the four states of Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman, and the more promising players will be invited back to Stamford Bridge to further their football education. It will take effect from now until the end of the season and could be renewed next year.

The deal is Gulf Air's first international sponsorship and is believed to be the first British scheme involving and Arab group. Details of the scheme were revealed yesterday. The Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates, said: "A considerable sum is involved. We have been talking with Gulf Air since September, ever since the two parties had been introduced by a mutual connexion."

● Dundee yesterday appointed the Aberdeen coach, Archie Knox, as their new manager to succeed Donald MacKay, who resigned on Sunday. The premier division club, currently third from bottom, moved quickly to engage Knox, Alex Ferguson's deputy at Pittodrie.

Knox, a former player with Dundee's local rivals Dundee United, as well as St Mirren and Forfar, had been with Aberdeen for just over three years. Before that, he was player-coach with Forfar and last season his coaching ability was recognised when he was put in charge of the Scottish under-16 team.

● Hartlepool, bottom of the fourth division with only one win in 22 League and Cup games, yesterday dismissed their manager, Mick Docherty. Docherty, who replaced Billy Horner, who stood down after six years in charge in March, took over as caretaker after acting as assistant to both Duncan and Docherty.

Docherty, the son of Tommy Docherty, would only comment: "I have been sacked and I am consulting my solicitor." The club chairman, Vince Barker, said: "The decision was unanimous." Docherty had been offered and accepted a two-year contract when he joined the club, but had not yet signed.

● West Ham forward, Paul Goddard, could soon be back in action. Goddard was due to have an operation on an injured toe yesterday but his manager, John Lyall, said: "The injury has improved so much over the last few days that we have postponed the hospital visit – and hopefully he won't need it at all now".

● Tony Rees, the Birmingham City winger who withdrew from Wales's under-21 squad this week, is in contention for a place in tomorrow's match at Southampton.

Godfrey at Weymouth

Brian Godfrey has been appointed manager of Weymouth, the Alliance Premier League club (Paul Newman writes). Godfrey, previously manager of Bath City and Exeter City, succeeds Stuart Morgan, who left Weymouth last month to become assistant manager of Bournemouth. Weymouth have signed Andy Bell, a forward, from Yeovil Town for £2,500.

Bob Murphy has resigned as manager of Mossley. He has been replaced by Brian Grundy, the former Wigan Athletic and Bury winger, who left Mossey three years ago to manage Glossop (North West Counties League). Jim Watson, the former manager of Banbury United, has been appointed manager of another Southern League club, A.P.Leamington. He succeeds Graham Allner, who left recently to join Kidderminster Harriers.

Geoff Wade, the manager of Hordern Colliery Welfare, has resigned after 20 years at the Northern League club, including four as manager.

EQUESTRIANISM

Smith delivers a stand-up put-down

By Jenny MacArthur

Harvey Smith chose the British Show Jumping Association's award dinner to launch an attack on the running of the sport. Smith's criticism came on Wednesday after he had received a salver for his contribution in the Nations Cup.

"We work our gut out all year round and what do we get to show for it – this", he announced, holding aloft his salver. "Every year the same old thing." He went on to describe how much effort leading show jumpers put into their sport and suggested that in return show organizers could at least pay stabling and entry fees for leading riders.

Smith, who is no stranger to taking the stage – he does stand-up comic routines in northern theatres during January and February – then spoke about the Olympics. He said it was no good borrowing a top horse from a professional and expecting a young amateur to climb on board and win medals.

"When I get a new horse it can take six to nine months to get him going right," he said. He suggested "to any selectors who might be here" that what was required was a winning combination, a horse and rider who have had time to get to know each other.

Smith's outburst brought a sharp reply from John Blakeway, the retiring chairman of the BSJA who said he thought it was not the occasion for such remarks. He reminded riders of the debt they owed to sponsors who enabled show jumping to prosper.

Lieutenant Commander W. B. Jefferies, the secretary general of BSJA, disclosed afterwards that riders receive considerable help when competing for Britain: the Association put up £80,000 a year towards the cost of sending Britain abroad.

Smith, who generally ends up with the crowd on his side, then decided to auction his salver – not out of pique, he said afterwards, but from a genuine desire to raise funds for the British Equestrian Olympic Appeal. His youngest son, Steven, is on the Olympic short list. Smith's salver fetched 500 guineas; David Broome's then went up for auction followed by Derick Ricketts's. By the end of the evening Smith's efforts had raised more than £1,300.

A dozen of Britain's top show jumpers, including Broome, Lionel Dunning and Tony Newbury, spent yesterday morning visiting the leukaemia ward in the Great Ormond Street hospital, London. A collegue of Tony Elliott, the managing director of Griffin and Brand, Dunning's sponsors, suggested the scheme, which was started last year. The riders talked to patients, 30 of whom came to Olympia in the evening for the opening night of the Olympic International Show Jumping championship.

Miss Bayliss award

Rachel Bayliss, the winner of this year's European three-day event championship with Mystic Minstrel, has received the "personality of the year" award presented by the British Equestrian Writers' Association.

SQUASH RACKETS

Miss Opie regains British title

By Rex Bellamy

Lisa Opie, the 1981 champion, regained the British women's championship, sponsored by Just Juice, by beating Martine le Moignan 10-9, 9-1, 9-4 in 45 minutes at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, last evening. This was the third time Mrs le Moignan had been runner-up for the title.

Both women were born in Guernsey and are much the same age. There had never been much between them in terms of natural talent. The first game probably had a considerable influence on the confidence of both of them. Miss Opie won that game on her sixth game ball but, in the process, had to save three game balls. That was a close and thrilling game in which both players made more winners than losers. As expected, Miss le Moignan was particularly adept in using the side walls, whereas Miss Opie had the greater variety.

Eventually Miss Opie won the game with a forehand that clung to the wall and achieved a length that was almost perfect. The effect of the game's outcome quickly became apparent when Miss Opie romped to a 7-0 lead in the second game. There was no suggestion that Miss le Moignan had given up the fight. It was simply that a little of the zest had drained out of her, whereas Miss Opie was now confident enough to press home her advantage with a wide range of winning shots.

The largest proportion of these short shots – mostly drops but sometimes angles – and it was hadly surprising that Miss le Moignan, who is recovering from back trouble, was not particularly supple in bending for them.

Another interesting factor early in the second game was that when Miss le Moignan played a superb rally and seemed to have won the point morally on two occasions, Miss Opie frustrated her with some astonishing retrieving – and Miss le Moignan lost the rally with a loose forehand that rebounded from the front wall to hit her.

This was frustration added to adversity. A similar pattern recurred in the third game, with Miss Opie continuing to hit a wide range of winning shots and Miss le Moignan never really looking like stopping her. Miss le Moignan did hit twice as many winners as losers in the third game – but Miss Opie hit three timnes as many. By this time Miss Opie's short shots had become very profitable indeed.

By contrast Miss le Moignan, in going bravely for her shots, was sometimes indiscreetly ambitious. Even if Miss le Moignan had won that first game, it must be seriously doubted whether she would have won any more. But the overall pattern of the match was affected by the fact that the better player managed to get in front and thus acquire the confidence to play her best squash.

SNOOKER

Slow motion route to semi-finals

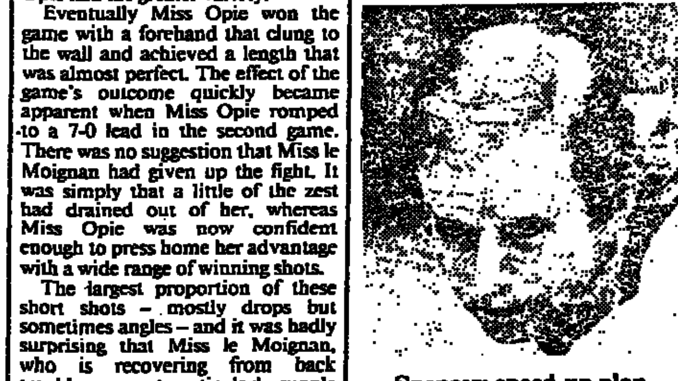
The Canadian Cliff Thorburn and his English partner John Virgo reached the semi finals of the Hofmeister world doubles championships in Northampton, yesterday in convincing style.

In a long, drawn out quarter final they whitewashed the Welsh player Ray Reardon and his English partner John Spencer 5-0.

The length of the match, more than three hours for five frames, once again raised the issue of slow play and Spencer, Reardon and Virgo are all on the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association Board, which is currently discussing the problem.

Spencer said: "The issue is over slow play and not long matches but I must admit today's match was slow.

"The point is you can have very long frames which are not slow because so many shots have been played at a reasonable pace.



Spencer: speed-up plan.

"Perhaps the only way you can solve this in the end is to time players from the moment they leave their seat to the time they finish their shot. If you assume a fair average is 30 seconds per shot and allow 45, then somebody taking more than a minute per shot on average could be said to be playing too slowly and could be warned and perhaps, later, even fined. That is only my view but I cannot see another workable system."

Alex Higgins, crowned United Kingdom snooker champion 12 days ago after a euphoric 16-15 victory over the world champion Steve Davis, came back to earth with a thump on Wednesday.

Higgins and the Canadian Kirk Stevens were odds-on favourites to beat Bill Werbeniuk and Eddie Charlton in their quarter-final, but were thrashed 5-1.

The pair were outplayed by a stolid looking oppositin partnership that sparked into life when Werbeniuk, out of gear as Charlton led the way to a 3-1 lead, hit breaks of 57 in frame five and 65 in frame six to complete a victory that surprised everyone but themselves.

QUARTER-FIANL: C Thorburn and J Virgo bt R Reardon and J Spencer 5-0.

BADMINTON

Yates finds the going tougher against Sidek

Jakarta (Reuter) – Following the surprise defeat of the world champion, Icuk Sugiarto, by Nick Yates, of England, on Wednesday night, Liem Swie King kept Indonesia's colours flying high, as he launched his challenge for the grand prix men's singles title, with a 15-3, 15-10 victory over Ong Beng Teong, of Malaysia, here last night.

Misbun Sidek, also of Malaysia, proved himself a top contender, as he brought Yates back down to earth, 15-7, 15-4.

The Indonesian number one and All-England champion in 1978, 1979 and 1981, Liem was never in serious trouble as he set up what should be a compelling contest today against the All-England champion, Luan Jin, of China, to decide who goes into tomorrow's semi-final.

Misbun never allowed Yates to settle, and if Misbun beats Icuk today, or even if he loses a three-game match, he will go into the semi-final.

In group C, Tian Bingyi, of China, came back to outlast Steve Baddeley, of England, 10-15, 15-9, 15-10 in the best men's match of the night.

MEN'S SINGLES: Group A: Liem Swie King (Indo) bt Ong Beng Teong (Mal), 15-3, 15-10. Group B: Hastomo Arbi (Indo) bt Sompol Kukasemkij (Thai), 15-5, 15-7. Group C: Tiang Bingyi (China) bt S Baddeley (Eng), 10-15, 15-9, 15-10. Group D: Misbun Sidek (Mal) bt N Yates (Eng), 15-7 15-4.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Group A: H Troke (Eng) bt S Podger (Eng), 11-8, 11-3; Zhang Ailing (China) bt K Larsen (Den), 4-11, 11-7, 11-5. Group B: Han Aiping (China) bt Li Lingwei (China), 6-11, 12-11, 11-6; K Beckman (Eng) bt J Webster (Eng), 11-7, 5-11, 11-7.

BASKETBALL

Palace undone by Israelis' tactical switch

By Nicholas Harling

Blue Nun Crystal Palace fly back from Israel today probably still wondering how they managed to lose a match they had all but won. With Palace's 75-73 defeat in their Korac Cup group quarter-final against Maccabi Ramat-Gan on Wednesday probably went the English club's best chance of staying in Europe.

Yet Palace had extended their interval lead of 41-39 to 10 points before the Israelis made a tactical switch that altered the course of the game. By marking Kellerman, Palace's guard, out of the game Maccabi provided a rousing finale. Kellerman finished with 23 points and McCray with 16.

Palace, who lost by eight points in Antibes last week, play their third successive away tie against Carrera Venice on January 12 and follow that with their three home legs; but the odds are heavily against them, even though Stimpson, who is currently out of action with a broken ankle, may be fit for the last three games.

Sperrings Solent Stars, who meet Palace in the second leg of their Asda Cup semi-final on Monday leading by 12 points, have far more chance of progressing in the European Cup Winners' Cup after their astonishing 67-61 win in Italy against Olimpia Milan, a result that compares favourably with Palace's home defeat of Real Madrid last year as the best by a British club in Europe. Johnson (39) scored well over half the points for Solent

FOR THE RECORD

BOXING

LOANO: European junior lightweight championship: Alfredo Raininger (It, holder) bt Francis Tripp (Fr), rsc 6th round.

FOOTBALL

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: London University 1, Royal Navy 3 (at Motspur Park).
SCHOOLS MATCH: Borden Grammar 0, Harvey Grammar 3.
RUMANIAN LEAGUE: Rapid Bucharest 0, Arges Pitesti 2; Dynamo Bucharest 3, Bihor 1; Corvinul Hunedoara 2, Bacau 0; Jiul Petrosani 1, Baia Mare 0; Asa Tirgu Mures 0, Sportul Studentesc 1; Tirgoviste 2, Universitatea Craiova 1; Olt 0, Chimia Rimnicu Vilcea 0; Dunarea Cau Galati 3, Steaua Bucharest 1; Petrolul Ploiesti 1, Politehnica Iasi 1.
SPANISH LEAGUE: Español 1, Barcelona 0; Atletico Madrid 1, Salamanca 0; Sevilla 2, Real Zaragoza 0; Osasuna 2, Cadiz 0; Real Mallorca 2, Real Sociedad 1; Athletic Bilbao 2, Valencia 0; Real Murcia 2, Malaga 1; Sporting 2, Real Betis 0; Real Valladolid 0, Real Madrid 2.

HANDBALL

KATOWICE: Women's world championships: Seventh place: Austria 13, Denmark 23. Ninth place: Norway 26, Sweden 28. Eleventh place: Spain 24, Netherlands 23.

HOCKEY

SOUTH LEAGUE: Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Region: City of Oxford 2, Reading University 2.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Calgary Flames 4, Quebec Nordiques 2; New Jersey Devils 3, Buffalo Sabres 3; Winnipeg Jets 8, Toronto Maple Leafs 4; Los Angeles Kings 6, Chicago Black Hawks 5; St Louis Blues 4, Minnesota North Stars 4; Edmonton Oilers 9, New York Rangers 4.

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCHES: County U-18 Group: Dorset and Wiltshire 22, Devon 0. Other matches: Falmouth 6, Richard Lander 0; Hill College 9, Brockenhurst 39; St Peter's, York 13, Bradford Grammar 14; Truro 6, Old Boys 14; Warwick 27, St Bees 8.

CLUB MATCH: Bedford 27, RAF 8.
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Royal Navy 14, Hampshire 7.

TABLE TENNIS

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: France 2, Hungary 5; Sweden 2, Poland 5; Yugoslavia 6, West Germany 1; Czechoslovakia 4, England 3 (Czechoslovak names first): J Pansky lost to D Douglas, 14-21, 13-21; V Broda lost to G Sandley, 12-21, 21-23; M Hrachova beat K Witt, 21-18, 21-15; Pansky and Broda beat Douglas and Sandley, 21-15, 18-21, 21-19; Pansky and Hrachova beat A Cooke and J Grundey, 21-14, 21-16; Pansky beat Sandley, 21-13, 21-16; Broda lost to Douglas, 19-21, 21-16, 18-21.

TENNIS

AUCKLAND: Exhibition match: B Borg (Swe) bt C Lewis (NZ), 1-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4.

NORTH MIAMI BEACH: Ilie Nastase invitation tournament (US unless stated): Third round: T Mayotte bt W Scanlon, 7-6, 7-6; J Connors bt B Gilbert, 6-1, 6-2; J Arias bt W Fibak (Pol), 6-2, 7-6; A Gomez (Ec), bt A Krickstein, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

PLANTATION, Florida: Sunshine Cup junior team championship, Second round: Britain 2, Czechoslovakia 1 (British names first): P Moore lost to Cwiyo Suk (Cz) 4-6, 4-6; R Whichello bt P Korda, 6-3, 7-6; Moore and Whichello bt Suk and Korda, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2. Mexico 3, Italy 0; Spain 2, Belgium 1; Israel 2, Chile 1; Sweden 2, Philipines 1; West Germany 3, Brazil 0; France 2, Austria 1; United States 3, Venezuela 0.

ATHLETICS

MELBOURNE: 10,000m: T G Kamau (Ken), 27min 59.14sec; 2 R de Castella (Aus), 28:02.73.

WEIGHTLIFTING

LENINGRAD: Lightweight: V Grachov (USSR), 155kg (world snatch record).

VOLLEYBALL

CAMDEN SUPER LEAGUE: Spark 3, Capital City Spikers 1.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-final groups: Scavolini Pallacanestro Pesaro (It) 87, Panathinaikos 75; Olimpia Simac Milan 61 (Boselli 16, Premier 16, Meneghin 14), Solent Stars 67 (Johnson 39, Salers 8, Tatham 6, Griffith 6, Watson 4, Philip 4, Robinson 2.
KORAC CUP: Quarter-final groups: Cai Zaragoza 90, PLB Trieste 62; Maccabi Ramat-Gan (Israel) 75 (Jamche 24, Amos 14, Cornelius 12, Ben Ari 12), Crystal Palace 73 (Kellerman 23, McCray 16, Moore 12, Anderson 11, Lloyd 8, Spaid 2, White 1); Orthez (Fr) 90, Zadar (Yug) 77; SP Varese (It) 93, PAOK Salonika 80; Eczacibasi Istanbul 99, Moderne Le Mans 80.
RONCHETTI CUP: Quarter-final group: Racing Club de Paris 77, Schio (It) 65; Viterbo (It) 77, BSE Budapest 85.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Boston Celtics 110, Cleveland Cavaliers 108; Washington Bullets 99, Atlanta Hawks 98; San Antonio Spurs 129, San Diego Clippers 114; Dallas Mavericks 117, Indiana Pacers 109; Philadelphia 76ers 115, Milwaukee Bucks 93; Kansas City Kings 105, Seattle Supersonics 99.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Kingston 108, Hemel Hempstead 98.

FOOTBALL

UXBRIDGE: RAF 0, Civil Service 0.

TENNIS

HONGKONG: Exhibition tournament final: M Navratilova (US) bt P Shriver (US), 7-6, 6-3.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated
First division
Manchester v Tottenham H (7.15)
Fourth division
Stockport County v Tranmere Rovers

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: Holmeister world tournament (at Northampton).

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

European Championship
Group four

WALES (0) 1 YUGOSLAVIA (0) 1
R James — Bazdarevic
24,000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	6	2	3	1	7	6	7
Yugoslavia	5	2	2	1	9	8	6
Bulgaria	5	2	1	2	5	5	5
Norway	6	1	2	3	7	8	4

Remaining match: December 21: Yugoslavia v Bulgaria.

FA Cup Second round replays

ALTRINCHAM (0) 0 DARLINGTON (1) 2
2,142 — Johnson, Walsh
(Darlington at home to Maidstone)

OXFORD U (2) 3 READING (0) 0
Brock, Vinter, McDonald — 7,570
(Oxford away to Chesterfield or Burnley)

TELFORD (1) 3 NORTHAMPTON (0) 2
Bailey, Williams, Mather (pen) — Belfon, Jeffrey
3,320
(Telford away to Rochdale)

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group three: Greece 1, Luxembourg 0.
FA YOUTH CUP: Second round replay: Portsmouth 6, Torquay 3 (aet).
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Bob Lord Trophy: Second round, second leg: Maidstone 2, Enfield 4.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton 0, Manchester United 1; Newcastle 3, Aston Villa 2; Sheffield United 3, Liverpool 3; Sunderland 1, Sheffield Wednesday 4. Second division: Coventry 1, Huddersfield 0. Postponed: Barnsley v Rotherham.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers 6, Oxford United 0; Norwich 1, Leicester 0; Reading 1, Millwall 2.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Willenhall 1, Moor Green 0. Southern division: RS Southampton 4, Basingstoke 1; Dunstable 0, Crawley 2.
SURREY SENIOR CUP: Fifth qualifying round: Molesey 0, Corinthian-Casuals 5.

IN BRIEF

Tough start for Scots

Scotland, the British representatives in the 1984 Air Canada Silver Broom, the curling world championships, will know from the start of next year's tournament if they have a realistic chance of returning with the trophy. They were paired with United States in their opening game of the competition at Duluth, Minnesota, during the first week of April when the draw for the round robin series was made in Canada yesterday.

They wil then meet West Germany and, after a match against Norway, they play the Canadians. There could hardly have been a stiffer opening day for the Scots. The leading four countries go on to the knock-out semi-final stage and there is a play-off for third place

FOOTBALL: England seen certain to play Argentina for the first time since the Falkland conflict in a six-nation tournament in Brazil next June . The Brazilian football president, Giulite Coutinho, has stated that England, Argentina and Uruguay have already accepted invitations, although the matches remain provisional until the Football Association receive definite confirmation of the dates.

ATHLETICS: The Kenyan distance runner, Gabriel Kamau, outsprinted the Australian world marathon champion, Robert De Castella, to win the Emil Zatopek 10,000 metres title at the Olympic Park in Melborne yesterday. Kamau, aged 25 a journalism student at the University of El Paso, Texas, won in 27min 59.14sec. De Castella clocked a personal best tine of 28min 2.73sec.

HOCKEY: Tulse Hill, the national indoor champions, have been drawn against East Grinstead, Bedford and Gloucester City in the last 32 of the club championship to be played on January 15.

DRAW: John Player Sports Hall, Nottingham: Pool 1: Oxford Hawks, Hounslow, St Albans, Welton. Pool 2: South Nottingham, Hampstead, Southport, Khalsa (Middx), Richard Dunn Sports Centre, Bradford: Pool 3: Wisbech, Sheffield, Stone, Slough. Pool 4: Olton and West Warwick, Ipswich, Alderley Edge, Doncaster. Meriden Sports Centre, Slough: Pool 5: RAF Strike Command, Cambridge City, Blackheath, Bournemouth. Pool 6: Fareham, Pickwick, Medway United, Gerrards Cross. Oasis Centre, Swindon: Pool 7: RN, Plymouth Command, Beckenham, Bournville, Firebrands. Pool 8: Bedford, Tulse Hill, East Grinstead, Gloucester City.

CRICKET: The West Indies fast bowler Joel Garner, who was left out of the current cricket tour of India on medical grounds, returns to the squad of 15 for the one-day World Series Cup in Australia next month.

SQUAD: C Lloyd (captain), R Harper, V Richrds, R Richardson, E Baptiste, G Greenidge, D Haynes, J Garner, M Marshall, W Daniel, J Dujon, M Holding, L Gomes, R Gabriel, W Davis.

RACING: GRAND NATIONAL WINNER LOOKS AS GOOD AS EVER IN HAYDOCK COMEBACK

Corbiere is so pleasing in defeat

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Corbiere, this year's Grand National winner did not make a triumphant return in the Burnley Handicap Steeplechase at Haydock Park yesterday, but anybody seeing his trainer Jenny Pitman's face bathed in smiles afterwards could have been forgiven for thinking that he had just done so. In fact, Corbiere finished third to Bush Guide and Chingolo beaten 16 lengths, but Mrs Pitman was every bit as delighted as if he had won.

Commenting on the race afterwards, she said: "training him on the firm ground at home has been difficult this autumn. The object was to come here and get a good run into him without anything going wrong and that is what we have achieved".

Deputising for Corbiere's regular rider, Ben de Haan, who was injured in a fall at Nottingham last Saturday, the champion jockey, John Francome, said that he too, was pleased with the feel that Corbiere had given him, considering that it was slippery after a night of heavy rain.

Looking at Corbiere in the paddock beforehand, I formed the impression that he was big and in need of the race, having done particularly well physically in the eight months that he has been off the course, since Liverpool. He is now firmly on course for another crack at the Welsh National, which he won last season.

Mrs Pitman will also run Burrough Hill Lad in the Chepstow race, and he is likely to have another race between now and then, either at Lingfield Park or at Worcester. Jacko, who finished fourth yesterday, is also earmarked for the big Chepstow race on December 27.

Bush Guide, who was never entered for the Welsh National, was well ridden by his devoted 24-year-old owner, Valerie Alder. Bar one mistake on the second circuit, Bush Guide repaid the compliment to the young lady, who rides without carrying a whip. With this result in the bag, Valerie and her father, John, now have their eyes upon the Eider Steeplechase at Newcastle next year. A crack at the Grand National will be delayed until 1985.

Revelling in the softer conditions underfoot Bush Guide led all the way yesterday. Racing away from the stands for the last time the top weight, Ashley House, looked a big danger because he was going so well, and jumping so brilliantly. But Bush Guide and Miss Alder refused to give up the initiative and by the time that Ashley House made a bad mistake at the last fence he was a spent force. Nevertheless, my lasting impression was the way that Corbiere was running on strongly.

The brilliant way that Michael Dickinson's novices are taught to jump continue to amaze after Red Mills had given an almost flawless display to win the Birkdale Novices Steeplechase. When asked whether they put them over brick walls or something equally hard at Harewood to get them to jump so well, Michael's father, Tony, simply replied: "No, only over plastic fences". Whatever the explanation the end result is a tribute to both the method and those who put it into practice.

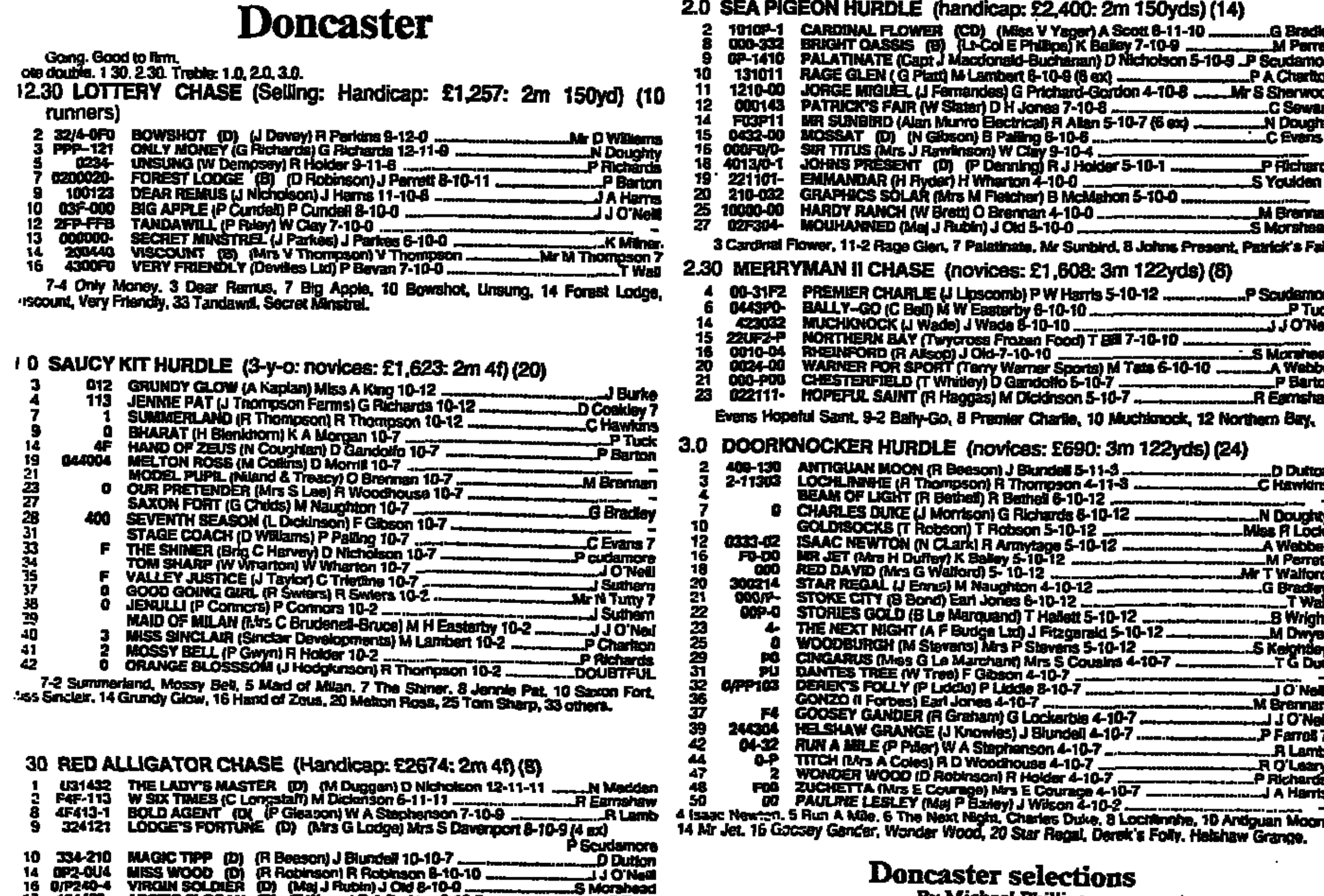
Willie Carson, the champion Flat jockey, paid Haydock a visit to see his son, Anthony, aged 20, have his first ride in public in the Beeches Farm Conditional Jockey Handicap Hurdle. Sadly, it all ended very painfully for father and son when Brockley Belle gave young Carson a heavy fall at only the second flight. Tony was obviously in considerable pain and, having been taken from the course on a stretcher in an ambulance a broken collar bone was diagnosed.

At Doncaster today Bright Oassis can win the Sea Pigeon Handicap Hurdle at the expense of the top weight, Cardinal Flower and Palatinate now that his trainer, Kim Bailey, has decided to put blinkers on him again. Bailey told me recently that he was bitterly disappointed when bad weather forced the stewards to abandon the meeting at Sandown Park 13 days ago because he felt that Bright Oassis stood and excellent chance of winning the valuable Mecca Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle that day.

At Sandown, Bright Oassis would have met Cardinal Flower who has two victories over today's course and distance to his name. Now, he also meets Palatinate who beat him at Cheltenham in November. But Bright Oassis did not wear blinkers on that occasion and Bailey regrets not putting them on him then, bearing in mind that he excelled two seasons ago when wearing them.

When Bright Oassis was beaten by Miners Lodge at Newbury in November, it was as plain as a pikestaff that his stamina gave out at the end of two and half miles. He looked like cruising in halfway up the straight. The shorter distance of today's race should suit him better.

Hopeful Saint, a useful hurdler last season, but a horse who looked every inch a steeplechaser in the making even then, is my selection for the Merry Novices Steeplechase. Earlier in the day his stable companion, W Six Times, will be hard to catch in the Red Alligator Handicap Steeplechase.



John Francome and Corbiere get together for the first time at Haydock yesterday

Evergreen Even Melody lingers on

Even Melody showed that at 14 he is as sprightly as ever by winning the Christmas Tree Handicap Chase at Southwell yesterday. After the old horse battled home by half a length from Pea-Cock-Ade, his trainer, Neville Crump, said: "I wish I had his guts – I don't know who is the older, him or me."

At the final ditch, three from home, the 3-1 favourite, Capvista, fell and brought down Double Step and Oyster Pond, at which point Even Melody went in pursuit of Starlight Lad and Kindled Spirit. Crump added: "If he had jumped the last better, it would have been easier. He's an amazing horse and laughs every day of his life. Two years ago I was going to retire him, and he promptly won three on the trot."

Peter Dever needs only one more winner to have his right to claim reduced to 4lb after a double on Greenacres Joy and Crowecopper.

Brian McMahon, who is enjoying a good run, saddled Greenacres Joy to give him his eighth winner of the season in the second division of the selling hurdle, surviving a blunder at the last flight to beat the 11-4 favourite, Hatteras, by eight lengths.

Mick Easterby, successful with the 5-1 shot, Mr Snugfit, in the Christmas Stocking Handicap Chase, was denied a double when the 6-4 on favourite, Skewsby, fell at the last fence in the novices chase with a six-lengths advantage over the eventual winner, Sea Splash. The stable jockey Phil Tuck, who never had an anxious moment with Mr Snugfit, reported that Skewsby skidded into the obstacle, saying: "He came down too steep and nearly found another leg. Apart from a mistake at the last ditch, his jumping was safe."

● Richard Quinn, the European apprentice champion, will spend four weeks on a working trip to Australia, where he will be based with George Hanlan in Melbourne. Hanlan is one of Australia's top trainers with two Melbourne Cup successes (1972 and 1978) to his credit. This year, his best horse has been Amarant, winner of the Adelaide and Brisbane Cups. Quinn flies to Australia on January 5.

Jockey Club clear trainers

Two trainers, Bill Preece and Roy Whiston, were cleared at a Jockey Club inquiry yesterday into positive dope tests on their horses, Crowecopper and Fly More. Urine samples from Preece's Crowecopper and Whiston's Fly More were both found to contain theobromine, as well as, in the case of Fly More, caffeine and theophylline.

However, the disciplinary committee were satisfied that the source of the prohibited drugs was the supplement Favorite, manufactured by a German company. Crowecopper was disqualified from the race he won at Uttoxeter on September 22, and Fly More successful at Worcester the following day, met a similar fate.

Seeking comfort for the punters

You can say what you like about democracy, but it still strikes me as incongruous to find yourself exchanging views about going down to the betting shop when you are talking to a Tory baronet. Somehow, the Right Honourable Sir Ian Hedworth John Little Gilmour M.P. doesn't seem to go with a 10p Yankee.

Sir Ian, it must be said, finds nothing odd in this juxtaposition, and his backing of what he calls a "small, but useful and generally beneficial reform". He is introducing a private member's bill, which, if passed, could in the end make your average High Street betting shop a little less like the Lubyanka. "It is a kind of nineteenth century way of thinking, the idea that says if you must have legal gambling, then it must take place in the maximum possible discomfort."

The Betting and Gaming act of 1963 brought off-course betting out of the closet of illegality, but, nervous about corrupting a nation, betting shops were hedged about with restrictions: no advertisements, no signs, no telly, no seats, no refreshment – above all, nothing that could possibly be construed as "entertainment".

The interior of betting shops are decorated with a stark, bleak minimalism, like a Zen rock garden. The law insits that they are uncomfortable places to be in ... yet that does nothing to stop many a punter from improving a shining hour or two with a quiet series of investments, watching the rise and fall in the betting market relayed from the course, scanning the pinned-up form in *Sporting Life*, exchanging views.

"We have to self-regulate," Stuart Hall, sales and marketing manager at Exchange Telegraph explained. "We must provide an entirely factual service. Paddock profiles, for example, might be construed as entertainment. And if we seek to give entertainment then the bookmakers are liable to be prosecuted."

To sit down and watch a race on the telly with a cup of coffee seems a small thing, especially when, with the dawn of cable television breaking, there is likey to be more opportunity than ever for the punter to see what colour horse he has backed, but the law says this is simply not on.

Sir Ian has been known to have the odd bet himself. "If you are well off, you have an account with a bookmaker, and you telephone your bet over, and then watch the race in comfort on your television at home. Others are not so fortunate, and I think this is unfair and unreasonable."

The bill he is introducing is an enabling bill, which, if passed, will allow the Home Secretary, if he likes the idea, to put forward changes in the regulations governing betting shops, which, if they are passed by both Houses of Parliament, can then be instigated.

Furthermore, the problems of jockeying a private member's bill through Parliament make the difficulties of picking the 1984 Derby winner fade into insignificance, with such things as balloting and tactical objections to contend with. The bill was to have come up today, but has been put back until March. Sir Ian believes that "any one who objects will be on weak ground".

No matter what the ground is like, the bill is a million miles away from being a cert, despite the illustriousness of its backer, a former secretary of state for defence and former Lord Privy Seal.

I don't know if the author of *Inside Right: a study of Conservatism* has often had a 5p Heinz (six selections covered in 57 bets) or tried many reverse forecasts at Hackney dogs via BAGS, the Bookmakers Afternoon Greyhound Service, but Sir Ian, though not a fanatic, is a racing man.

"I've owned half a horse on occasions, the best of which was Spartan Sacrifice, who was beaten in a photograph for the Stewards' Cup twice. I used to bet more regularly than I do now, because I don't have time to study the form and one likes to do the thing properly."

He doesn't believe that a cup of instant coffee and a telly will bring a flood of new and profligate gamblers to ruin. "There has been a lot confusion about this reform – people think bookmakers want to start serving alcohol. This is not the case," Tom Kelly, director general of the bookies group, the Betting Office Licensees Association (BOLA), said.



Sir Ian Gilmour: wants to brighten betting shops

Sir Ian said: "If people want to gamble, they will do so anyway, so I don't see why they shouldn't do so in reasonably civilized circumstances. It has always been OK for the middle classes to gamble in comfort. I think it should be OK for every one else." His bill is not, he says, a forlorn hope. In fact, he reckons it is something like an even-money chance.

Simon Barnes

HOCKEY

Britain qualify by smallest margin

From Sydney Friskin, Honkong

Great Britain 5
China 0

Britain qualified for the semi-finals of the 10 nations tournament yesterday with a decisive victory over China. Level with Malaysia on points and goal difference, Britain won the right to play Australia tomorrow night for a place in the final by virtue of having scored more goals than Malaysia. The other semi-final will be between Pakistan and India.

After Britain's 3-2 defeat by South Korea on Wednesday changes had to be made. Pappin replaced Taylor in goal, Duthie gave way to Craig in deep defence and Martin made way for Faulkner in the middle line. Sherwani, who came as substitute against South Korea, led the attack but was replaced by Duthie. Hughes did not play and Britain made positional changes too.

Yet Britain could not have made a better start. They were two goals up in four minutes, by which time China became so desperate that they made substitution in an effort to stablize their tottering defence. In the second minute a short corner led to a plenalty stroke which was converted by Westcott the, from another short corner Craig's shot was saved but Kerly scored from the follow-up.

With the Chinese committing obstruction with stick and body, the short corners continued to pour in for Britain (they had 11 altogether) and Barber scored directly from one of these. One of the best assults of the match led to the fourth goal, Westcott pickering up a free hit from Kerly and dashing through to score. Three minutes before the interval Britain scored from another short corner, Leman stopping the hit from the line and passing to Kerly who scored.

Although Britain occupied Chinese territory for most of the second half they could not score against stubborn Chinese resistance. Britain played well as a team but individual honours must go to Potter for another smooth performance at centre back.

GREAT BRITAIN: V Pappin, P J B Barber, J N Potter, D Craig, W McConnell, S Kerly, D G Westcott, D Faulkner, S Batchelor, I Sherwani (sub J L Duthie), R A Leman.
CHINA: Bai Deanzhu, Sun Yan, Du Liying, Guo Ronghao, Zhong Linrong, Zhang Gaoming, Yang Lieben, Guo Xudong, You Badong, Wo Hongjie, Meng Huichen.
UMPIRES: J Harjanovic (Aus) and K O Connor (Can).

Other results: Group A: India 3, Japan 0; Australia 4, Canada 1.

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	4	0	0	28	4	8
India	4	2	0	2	7	8	4
Canada	4	2	0	2	7	8	4
Japan	4	2	0	2	11	16	4
Hongkong	4	0	0	4	4	28	0
GROUP B							
Pakistan	4	4	0	0	19	4	8
Great Britain	4	2	0	2	13	11	4
Malaysia	4	2	0	2	9	7	4
South Korea	4	2	0	2	8	11	4
China	4	0	0	4	0	16	0

Germans in pool

By Joyce Whitehead

England will play West Germany, Ireland, France and Spain in pool B in the first qualifying round of the European Cup in Lille, France, from May 3 to 13 next year. In pool A Scotland, Netherlands, Belgium, the Soviet Union and Austria.

Meanwhile, England havee accepted an invitation from the Australian Women's Hockey Association to take part in their Seventy-fifth anniversary celebration in September, 1985.

Artificial pitches and the varying standards of umpiring have been two of the most influential factors in pre-tournament county championship matches, all of which have now been played. Those sides more used to playing on an artificial surface have undoubtedly benefited from their knowledge, while umpiring inconsistencies have caused a regrettable amount of frustration among some players.

In tomorrow's County matches Wiltshire play Herefordshire in Swindon and on the new artificial pitch in Abbey Park, Leicester, Leicester meet Hertfordshire.

Leicestershire are the Midlands county yet to be beaten, while Herefordshire are second in the East table. It is possible that these teams might meet in the county championship finals in February.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Skerrett to captain 1984 tour

By Keith Macklin

On the ill-fated and disastrous Great Britain tour of Australasia in 1979, the outstanding forward, and one of the few Great Britain players to enhance his reputation, was Trevor Skerrett. The international selectors have long memories, and yesterday Skerrett was named as the captain for the 1984 tour of Australasia.

Skerrett has 10 caps and will lead Great Britain in two internationals against France early next year. He joined Hull from Wakefield Trinity, and has been a leading figure in Hull's triumphs during the past few seasons. A former second row forward, he graduated to the front row with outstanding success, and is renowned as one of the most fearsome tacklers in the game.

Although not a try-scoring forward, he is a selfless distributor of the ball and a whole-hearted 80 minute player of the type needed if Great Britain are to make any sort of impact in Australia and New Zealand next year.

Skerrett's appointment follows a number of others designed to improve the Great Britain squad. The manager, Dick Gemmell, the coach, Frank Myler, the physiotherapist, Ronnie Barritt, and the "fitness conditioner", Rod McKenzie, have already been appointed, and an assistant manager will be named next month. The 28 players will be chosen towards the end of the season.

ATHLETICS

Sponsorship will meet two needs

By Pat Butcher

It may not be evident to athletic followers, spoiled by a succession of Olympic, Commonwealth, European and world championship medals, that the biggest problems facing British athletics nowadays are the lack of indoor facilities, and some encouragement for school leavers to stay in the sport. A scheme launched yesterday by Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, and sponsored by Sankey Vending Ltd, providing £250,000 in the next three years, could go some way to plugging those gaps.

Almost 1,000 sports halls around the country will host a competition between schools and clubs, with equipment specially designed by George Bunner.

Each meeting will allow for 300 children competing over two hours, as part of a knockout competition, with the finals on May 7 next year, at Aston Villa sports hall. The sponsorship also includes a £10,000 grant to the Sports Aid Foundation, towards Olympic preparations.

Indoor training facilities are a necessity for technical events, in which British athletes, apart from the shining example of Daley Thompson, Keith Connor, Fatima Whitbread and Tessa Sanderson, are sadly out of touch. The indoor season in Britain is due to be launched in the first week of January at Cosford, which is still the only properly-equipped indoor arena in the country.

BOXING

Writers' award for McGuigan





Barry McGuigan (right), aged 22, the British and European featherweight champion, has won the best young boxer of the year award in the annual poll of the Boxing Writers' Club. He will be presented with his trophy in London on January 18.

McGuigan topped the poll by an overwhelming margin and any doubts that he would win were swept away by his superb performance in winning the European title against Valerio Nati, in Belfast.

He is only the third Irishman to win the award following two bantamweights from Belfast, John Kelly in 1953 and Freddie Gilroy six years later. Others in the running this year included Frank Bruno, Mark Kaylor, Errol Christie and Jimmy Price.

TENNIS

Masters caps men's tour

By Lewine Mair

The LTA men's satellite tour, which will run for five weeks, beginning on Monday January 30, will start and finish at the Matchpoint Centre, Bramhall, Cheshire. After the first week, the players will move on to Telford, home of the closing event on the recent LTA women's satellite circuit. The third tournament in the series will take place at the new centre at Peterborough and the fourth at the Ace Centre, Coventry.

There will be a draw of 32 at all events, except the Masters at Match Point, the finale being open to the 16 players who have amassed the most points.

The circuit, which is to be refereed throughout by Alan Mills, is expected to draw a good international entry. The women's satellite tour attracted a good sprinkling of Americans and Europeans, although the LTA were disappointed when three Russian girls promised to the tournament by a London-based Russian diplomat, failed to materialize.

It was only a matter of days after he had spoken to the diplomat, that Ivor Emberey of the LTA caught sight of his face on the front page of a national newspaper, and read that he had been deported. Mr Emberey said to himself: "There go my three Russian girls" – and he was right.

Paul Hutchins, the national men's team manager, made the point yesterday that he felt the LTA were giving British players a real chance, by putting money into a ciruit carrying not just £22,000 in prize-money, but computer points.

"These points are invaluable for players working their way up the world ranking list, and I expect most of our top seniors and juniors to enter," he said.

Nystrom's reminder

(Sydney (Reuter) – With Sweden and Australia due to announce their teams today for the Davis Cup final, which begins on December 26, Joachim Nystrom furthered his claim for inclusion by moving into the quarter-final of the New South Wales open tournament yesterday. The Swede, aged, deflected the second seed, Tomas Smid, and Anders Jarryd, his rival for the second singles place behind Mats Wilander, had an expected win over Milislav Mecir.

THIRD ROUND (Australia unless stated): B Dyke bt P McNamee, 6-4, 7-6; L Bourne (US) bt P Fegl (ustralia), 7-6, 6-0; J Nystrom (Swe) bt T Smid (CZ), 4-6, 7-6, 6-3; M Davis (US) bt B Derlin (NZ), 6-7, 6-2, 7-6; P Cash bt W Masur, 6-4, 6-7, 6-1; A Jarryd (SWE) bt M Mecir (CZ), 6-2, 6-4.

Doncaster

Going: Good to firm.
Tote double: 1.30, 2.30. Treble: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0.

12.30 LOTTERY CHASE (Selling: Handicap: £1,257: 2m 150yd) (10 runners)

2	32/4-0F0	BOWSHOT (D) (J Devey) R Parkins 9-12-0	Mr D Williams
3	PPP-121	ONLY MONEY (G Richards) G Richards 12-11-9	N Doughty
5	0234-	UNSUNG (W Dempsey) R Holder 9-11-6	P Richards
7	0200020-	FOREST LODGE (B) (D Robinson) J Perrett 8-10-11	P Barton
9	100123	DEAR REMUS (J Nicholson) J Harris 11-10-6	J A Harris
10	03F-000	BIG APPLE (P Cundell) P Cundell 8-10-0	J J O'Neill
12	2FP-FFB	TANDAWILL (P Riley) W Clay 7-10-0	–
13	000000-	SECRET MINSTREL (J Parkes) J Parkes 6-10-0	K Milner
14	200440	VISCOUNT (B) (Mrs V Thompson) V Thompson	Mr M Thompson 7
16	4300F0	VERY FRIENDLY (Devilles Ltd) P Bevan 7-10-0	T Wall

7-4 Only Money, 3 Dear Remus, 7 Big Apple, 10 Bowshot, Unsung, 14 Forest Lodge, Viscount, Very Friendly, 33 Tandawill, Secret Minstrel.

1.0 SAUCY KIT HURDLE (3-y-o: novices: £1,623: 2m 4f) (20)

3	012	GRUNDY GLOW (A Kaplan) Miss A King 10-12	J Burke
4	113	JENNIE PAT (J Thompson Farms) G Richards 10-12	D Coakley 7
7	1	SUMMERLAND (R Thompson) R Thompson 10-12	C Hawkins
9	0	BHARAT (H Blenkhorn) K A Morgan 10-7	P Tuck
14	4F	HAND OF ZEUS (N Coughlan) D Gandolfo 10-7	P Barton
19	044004	MELTON ROSS (M Collins) D Morrill 10-7	–
21		MODEL PUPIL (Niland & Treacy) O Brennan 10-7	M Brennan
23	0	OUR PRETENDER (Mrs S Lee) R Woodhouse 10-7	–
27		SAXON FORT (G Childs) M Naughton 10-7	G Bradley
28	400	SEVENTH SEASON (L Dickinson) F Gibson 10-7	–
31		STAGE COACH (D Williams) P Palling 10-7	C Evans 7
33	F	THE SHINER (Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 10-7	P Scudamore
34		TOM SHARP (W Wharton) W Wharton 10-7	J O'Neill
35	F	VALLEY JUSTICE (J Taylor) C Trietline 10-7	J Suthern
37	0	GOOD GOING GIRL (R Swiers) R Swiers 10-2	Mr N Tutty 7
38	0	JENULLI (P Connors) P Connors 10-2	J Suthern
39		MAID OF MILAN (Mrs C Brudenell-Bruce) M H Easterby 10-2	J J O'Neil
40	3	MISS SINCLAIR (Sinclair Developments) M Lambert 10-2	P Charlton
41	2	MOSSY BELL (P Gwyn) R Holder 10-2	P Richards
42	0	ORANGE BLOSSSOM (J Hodgkinson) R Thompson 10-2	DOUBTFUL

7-2 Summerland, Mossy Bell, 5 Maid of Milan, 7 The Shiner, 8 Jennie Pat, 10 Saxon Fort, Miss Sinclair, 14 Grundy Glow, 16 Hand of Zeus, 20 Melton Ross, 25 Tom Sharp, 33 others.

1.30 RED ALLIGATOR CHASE (Handicap: £2674: 2m 4f) (8)

1	U31432	THE LADY'S MASTER (D) (M Duggan) D Nicholson 12-11-11	N Madden
2	F4F-113	W SIX TIMES (C Longstaff) M Dickinson 6-11-11	R Earnshaw
8	4F413-1	BOLD AGENT (D) (P Gleason) W A Stephenson 7-10-9	R Lamb
9	324121	LODGE'S FORTUNE (D) (Mrs G Lodge) Mrs S Davenport 8-10-9 (4 ex)	P Scudamore
10	334-210	MAGIC TIPP (D) (R Beeson) J Blundell 10-10-7	D Dutton
14	0P2-0U4	MISS WOOD (D) (R Robinson) R Robinson 8-10-10	J J O'Neill
16	0/P240-4	VIRGIN SOLDIER (D) (Maj J Rubin) J Old 8-10-0	S Morshead
17	104420-	ARCTIC SLOGAN (D) (T Wragg) R A Perkins 6-10-0	P Tuck

11-4 W Six Times, 7-2 Bold Agent, Lodge's Fortune, 6 Magic Tipp, 10 The Lady's Master, 14 Miss Wood, Virgin Soldier, 25 Arctic Slogan.

2.0 SEA PIGEON HURDLE (handicap: £2,400: 2m 150yds) (14)

2	1010P-1	CARDINAL FLOWER (CD) (Miss V Yager) A Scott 6-11-10	G Bradley
8	000-332	BRIGHT OASSIS (B) (Lt-Col E Phillips) K Bailey 7-10-9	M Perrett
9	0P-1410	PALATINATE (Capt J Macdonald-Buchanan) D Nicholson 5-10-9	P Scudamore
10	131011	RAGE GLEN (G Platt) M Lambert 6-10-9 (6 ex)	P A Charlton
11	1210-00	JORGE MIGUEL (J Fernandes) G Prichard-Gordon 4-10-8	Mr S Sherwood
12	000143	PATRICK'S FAIR (W Slater) D H Jones 7-10-8	C Seward
14	F03P11	MR SUNBIRD (Alan Munro Electrical) R Allan 5-10-7 (6 ex)	N Doughty
15	0432-00	MOSSAT (D) (N Gibson) B Palling 6-10-6	C Evans 7
15	000F0/0-	SIR TITUS (Mrs J Rawlinson) W Clay 9-10-4	–
18	4013/0-1	JOHNS PRESENT (D) (P Denning) R J Holder 5-10-1	P Richards
19	221101-	EMMANDAR (H Ryder) H Wharton 4-10-0	S Youlden 7
20	210-032	GRAPHICS SOLAR (Mrs M Fletcher) B McMahon 5-10-0	–
25	10000-00	HARDY RANCH (W Brett) O Brennan 4-10-0	M Brennan
27	02F304-	MOUHANNED (Maj J Rubin) J Old 5-10-0	S Morshead

3 Cardinal Flower, 11-2 Rage Glen, 7 Palatinate, Mr Sunbird, 8 Johns Present, Patrick's Fair.

2.30 MERRYMAN II CHASE (novices: £1,608: 3m 122yds) (8)

4	00-31F2	PREMIER CHARLIE (J Lipscomb) P W Harris 5-10-12	P Scudamore
6	0443P0-	BALLY-GO (C Bell) M W Easterby 6-10-10	P Tuck
14	423032	MUCHKNOCK (J Wade) J Wade 8-10-10	J J O'Neill
15	22UF2-P	NORTHERN BAY (Tycrosa Frozen Food) T Bill 7-10-10	–
18	0010-04	RHEINFORD (R Alsop) J Old 7-10-10	S Morshead
20	0024-00	WARNER FOR SPORT (Terry Warner Sports) M Tate 6-10-10	A Webber
21	000-P00	CHESTERFIELD (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 5-10-7	P Barton
23	022111-	HOPEFUL SAINT (R Haggas) M Dickinson 5-10-7	R Earnshaw

Evens Hopeful Saint, 9-2 Bally-Go, 8 Premier Charlie, 10 Muchknock, 12 Northern Bay.

3.0 DOORKNOCKER HURDLE (novices: £690: 3m 122yds) (24)

2	400-130	ANTIGUAN MOON (R Beeson) J Blundell 5-11-3	D Dutton
3	2-11303	LOCHLINNHE (R Thompson) R Thompson 4-11-3	C Hawkins
4		BEAM OF LIGHT (R Bethell) R Bethell 6-10-12	–
7	0	CHARLES DUKE (J Morrison) G Richards 6-10-12	N Doughty
10		GOLDISOCKS (T Robson) T Robson 5-10-12	Miss R Lock
12	0333-02	ISAAC NEWTON (N Clark) R Armytage 5-10-12	A Webber
16	F0-00	MR JET (Mrs H Duffey) K Bailey 5-10-12	M Perrett
18	000	RED DAVID (Mrs G Walford) 5-10-12	Mr T Walford
20	300214	STAR REGAL (J Ennis) M Naughton 4-10-12	G Bradley
21	000/P-	STOKE CITY (B Bond) Earl Jones 6-10-12	T Wall
22	00P-0	STORIES GOLD (B Le Marquand) T Hallett 5-10-12	B Wright
23	4-	THE NEXT NIGHT (A F Budge Ltd) J Fitzgerald 5-10-12	M Dwyer
25	0	WOODBURGH (M Stevens) Mrs P Stevens 5-10-12	S Keightley
29	P0	CINGARUS (Miss G Le Marchant) Mrs S Cousins 4-10-7	T G Dun
31	PU	DANTES TREE (W Tree) F Gibson 4-10-7	–
32	0/PP103	DEREK'S FOLLY (P Liddle) P Liddle 8-10-7	J O'Neill
36		GONZO (I Forbes) Earl Jones 4-10-7	M Brennan
37	F4	GOOSEY GANDER (R Graham) G Lockerbie 4-10-7	J J O'Neill
39	244304	HELSHAW GRANGE (J Knowles) J Blundell 4-10-7	P Farrell 7
42	04-32	RUN A MILE (P Piller) W A Stephenson 4-10-7	R Lamb
44	0-P	TITCH (Mrs A Coles) R D Woodhouse 4-10-7	R O'Leary
47	2	WONDER WOOD (D Robinson) R Holder 4-10-7	P Richards
48	F00	ZUCHETTA (Mrs E Courage) Mrs E Courage 4-10-7	J A Harris
50	00	PAULINE LESLEY (Maj P Bailey) J Wilson 4-10-2	–

4 Isaac Newton, 5 Run A Mile, 6 The Next Night, Charles Duke, 8 Lochlinnhe, 10 Antiguan Moon, 14 Mr Jet, 16 Goosey Gander, Wonder Wood, 20 Star Regal, Derek's Folly, Helshaw Grange.

Doncaster selections

By Michael Phillips

12.30 Only Money. 1.0 Maid Of Milan. 1.30 W Six Times. 2.0 Bright Oassis. 2.30 Hopeful Saint. 3.0 Isaac Newton.

Fakenham

Going: good

12.45 COTTESMORE CHASE (novices: £874: 2m 2f 110yd) (13 runners)

1	0-0f100	LORIOT (T Ramsden) D Dale 6-11-5	S Smith Eccles
2	0p-pff0	DONDIEU (D Greig) D Greig 6-10-12	H Davies
3	002f-33	DR PEPPER (Food Brokers Ltd) P Haynes 6-10-12	J Lovejoy 4
4	00/00-0	FLIGHT SHEET (M Haigh) P Felgate 7-10-12	–
5	14/0p-0	HELTON TARN (Mrs N Parish) P Butler 7-10-12	M Cronin 7
6	00-22pf	LANDAS SLAVE (S Lanaway) H O'Neill 7-10-12	G Newman
7	003p-4u	MR LARK (S Drage) Mrs K Coulman 9-10-12	C McKilfatrick 7
8	43-4322	NOMADIC STAR (H Ford) M C Chapman 7-10-12	K Burke 7
10	p0-p	ROLLO (I Gravener) J Scallan 7-10-12	Mr T Moore 7
11	0pfp-0p	TURENNE'S LAST (B) (L Dutton) J Scallan 10-10-12	J McLaughlin 4
12	0-	WAR CORRESPONDENT (E Forrest) D Ringer 6-10-12	S McNeill
13	202-012	KASHILL (H O Neill) H O'Neill 5-10-10	M Hammond 4
14	f0-0pOf	LUKE ALIVE (G Bloxham) K Bailey 8-10-7	C Mann 4

6-4 Dr Pepper, 9-4 Nomadic Star, 5 Kashill, 6 Loriot, 12 Landas Slave, 14 Mr Lark, 16 others.

1.15 FITZWILLIAM HURDLE (selling handicap: £640: 2m 80yd) (8)

1	001-230	SAUCY SERGENT (Mrs C Cooper) B Richmond 6-12-2	P Corrigan 7
3	10403p	THE KNIFE (Miss S Lavery) M James 5-11-8	Miss S James 7
4	/4-c0f0	LAURA'S PRIDE (A Marriott) J Jenkins 6-11-7	S Smith Eccles
5	/000-32	MISS METRO (C Bravery) C Drew 6-11-0	R Muggeridge 7
6	404000	NARSINH (B) (E Sills) J Jenkins 4-10-13	J Francome
10	423400-	BOTTISHAM (H O'Neill) H O'Neill 5-10-11	M Hammond 4
11	00/2240	PALM THE ACE (I Laming) R Hoad 5-10-2	M Hoad 7
14	00-0200	HOLDALL (J Parish) P Butler 5-10-0	G Newman

3 Saucy Sergent, 7-2 Laura's Pride, 5 Narsinh, 6 Miss Metro, 8 The Knife, 10 Palm The Ace.

1.45 WAVENEY CHASE (handicap: £1,152: 3m) (7)

1	13100-p	DONJILL (C,D) (D Greig) D Greig 9-12-7	H Davies
3	0p0-004	GUN METAL (D) (Hillfields Farming Co Ltd) E Wits 8-11-6	C Mann 4
5	0-11431	VENDEVAR (Parker Dyeing & Finishing) A Jarvis 8-10-11	J Francome
6	1232-30	PRINCE CARLTON (C,D) (Mrs J Bloom) Mrs J Bloom 8-10-7	Mr N Bloom 7
7	330433	ZELDA'S FANCY (Primeat Ltd) H O'Neill 8-10-5	G Newman
8	0f00-40	CLAN-DY-GUY (Mrs L Beesley) H Beesley 10-10-0	M Furlong
9	/20-usf	GRAND ARMAGNAC (Mrs H Flashman) H O'Neill 8-10-0	M Hammond 4

11-8 Vendevar, 3 Zelda's Fancy, 5 Gun Metal, 8 Donjill, 10 Prince Carlton, 12 Clan-Dy-Guy.

2.15 FAKENHAM CARAVAN & CAMPING SITE HURDLE (handicap: £1,063: 2m 80yd) (17)

1	01-	TANIWA (G Harvey) D Thom 4-11-12	–
2	004-100	APPLANTE (R Armytage) R Armytage 8-11-11	Miss G Armytage 7
4	1100/42	KESWICK (N Callaghan) N Callaghan 8-11-4	–
6	42310-2	SILENT ECHO (C) (A Blackmore) A Blackmore 8-10-13	Mr R Dunwoody 7
7	243-020	LORD OF THE REALM (Mrs R Bonner) P Haynes 5-10-13	P Corrigan 7
8	223410	KASSAK (A Jones) P Ashworth 7-10-12	R Campbell 4
9	000211-	WESTWAY LAD (C) (Mrs M Isherwood) M Hinchcliffe 4-10-11	A Carroll
10	0-01021	END OF ERA (C,D) (Mrs P Harris) J Jenkins 5-10-10	J Francome
11	/4211-4	PYKESTAFF (C) (Mrs E Richards) H O'Neill 6-10-10	M Hammond 4
14	041200-	GAY TWENTIES (C) (P Gordon) C Drew 9-10-5	S McNeill
15	p0-4040	SANDHAVEN (H Musson) D Grissell 6-10-4	R G Hughes
16	0-03100	SUPER BRAT (C) (Mrs L Carter) R Carter 4-10-4	M Richards 4
17	104000-	ALCONBURY HILL (G Horsford) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-3	P Dever 7
20	133300/	MAYNOTE (R Andrews) Mrs E Andrews 7-10-1	S Smith Eccles
21	00/pf-p	GALLEA (A Norman-Thorpe) W Guest 5-10-0	A Coogan
22	000	SHOTMAKER (B) (Miss J Chater) P Allingham 5-10-0	–
23	0014p0-	HIGH POPPA (F Mumford-Smith) O Brennan 4-10-0	–

3 End Of Era, 4 Kassak, 9-2 Silent Echo, 5 Keswick, 6 Applante, Lord Of The Realm.

2.45 BELVOIR CHASE (handicap: conditional jockeys: £1,112: 2m) (6)

1	011111/	VALE CHALLENGE (D) (M Holmes) P Felgate 9-12-7 (7 ex)	P Dever
2	f0-0400	JAMES SEYMOUR (C,D) (J Parish) P Butler 7-11-8	C Warren
3	432130	BRAHMS AND LISZT (J Parish) P Butler 7-11-5	M Cronin
4	p00-0p0	QUEENSLAND (K Ivory) K Ivory 7-11-4	B Powell
5	/3412p-	FONTENAY (Mrs V Ward) W Musson 10-11-3	–
6	442304	SMILING CAVALIER (A Madwar) A Madwar 7-10-7	I Williams

10-11 Vale Challenge, 3 Brahms And Liszt, 5 Smiling Cavalier, 8 James Seymour, 14 Fontenay, 20 Queensland.

3.15 WEST NORFOLK HURDLE (3-y-o: novices: £690: 2m 80yd) (15)

1	120	STATELY MAIDEN (D Weeden) D Weeden 11-3	K Townend 7
3		ALMA-CANDY (Food Brokers) P Haynes 10-12	J Lovejoy 4
5		BAHRAIN PEARLS (Mrs E Guest) W Guest 10-12	M Bowlby 7
6	p	BEDFORD ROW (I Goldstein) M C Chapman 10-12	K Burke 7
7		BEN'S BIRDIE (Mrs A Tompkins) M Tompkins 10-12	–
8	0	BYKER (S Brown) R Hoad 10-12	H Davies
9		CARDIGAN (Mrs P Troth) L Lightbrown 10-12	K Sims 7
11		CLACHAN (A Oppenheimer) G Pritchard-Gordon 10-12	S Smith Eccles
12		CUBIC ZIRCONIA (Scotts, Lincs) R J Williams 10-12	C Brown
13	0	ENBYAR DAN (E Plumb) C Drew 10-12	S McNeill
20		SARATINO (J Vanner) P Mitchell 10-12	R G Hughes
22		STAR OF IRELAND (H Pink) A Jarvis 10-12	J Francome
23		STEADY DUDLEY (I Gravener) J Scallan 10-12	J McLaughlin 4
27		NICK NICK (C Baldwin) D Dale 10-7	J Barlow
29		SCHULA (J Greaves) H O'Neill 10-7	G Newman

9-4 Star Of Ireland, 3 Saratino, 5 Clachan, 6 Ben's Birdie, 8 Stately Maiden, 10 Cubic Zirconia, 12 Bahrain Pearls, 14 others.

Fakenham selections

By Michael Phillips

12.45 Dr Pepper. 1.15 Palm Ace. 1.45 Vendevar. 2.15 Keswick. 2.45 Vale Challenge. 3.15 Clachan.

Haydock results

Going: Good to soft

1.00 HINDLEY GREEN HURDLE (novices: £1,223: 2m)
CORPORAL CLINGER ch g by Bruni – Penny Candy (Jay Dee Racing Ltd) 4-11-0 P Leach (4-1) 1
Tepylon ..... P A Charlton (3-1) 2
Homeola ..... S Morshead (5-2 fav) 3
TOTE: Win: £3.90. Places: £1.40, £2.40, £1.30. DF: £13.30. CSF: £18.95. M Pipe at Wellington. 3l, 6l. Falcon's Heir (25-1) 4th. 19 ran. NR: Sandcracker.

1.30 BIRKDALE CHASE (novices: £2,128: 3m)
RED MILLS ch g by London Gazette – Belle Genie (M Hellyer) 10-10-8 K Whyte (6-4 fav) 1
King's Brig ..... N Doughty (10-1) 2
Succeeded ..... Mr P J Dun (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £3.00. Places: £1.00, £2.20, £5.50. DF: £20.30. CSF: £16.29. M Dickinson at Harewood. 1½l, 30l. Tieranee (11-) 4th. 9 ran.

2.00 BEECHES FARM HURDLE (handicap: conditional jockeys: £1,155: 2m)
BOLD ILLUSION ch g by Grey Mirage – Savette (H Thursfield) 5-10-8 G Evans (8-1) 1
Tinker's Trip ..... P Stone (33-1) 2
Golden Knoll ..... B Powell (7-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £11.20. Places: £1.80, £19.80, £1.70 £1.50. DF: £457.20. CSF: £244.83. TRICAST: £1,815.46. M Eckley at Ludlow. 6l, 1½l. Tynwald Miller (5-2 fav) 4th. 17 ran.

2.30 BURNLEY CHASE (Handicap: £2,708: 3m 4f)
BUSH GUIDE b g by Flatbush – Guide Past (Miss V Alder) 7-9-7 Miss V Alder (6-1) 1
Chingolo ..... M Williams (33-1) 2
Corbiere ..... J Francome (8-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £6.30. Places: £1.40, £9.00, £2.40. DF: £564.10. CSF: £142.37. TRICAST: £1,437.93. J Alder at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 8l, 8l. Jacko (20-1) 4th. Ashley House (2-1 fav). 11 ran.

3.0 WIDNES HURDLE (Selling: £879: 2m 6f)
TECHNICAL MERIT b f by Gala Performance – Gweedore (Mrs K Coulman) 4-10-0 P Scudamore (8-1) 1
Bluebirdino ..... C Pimlott (33-1) 2
Shirley Grove ..... T Wall (9-2) 3
TOTE: Win: £15.90. Places: £2.80, £10.50, £1.70. DF: £249.40. CSF: £216.00. Mrs K Coulman at Louth. ¾l, 7l. Jymario (2-1 fav). Lord Charles (14-1) 4th. 12 ran. NR: End of Era. Bought in 2,600 gns.

3.30 GOLBORNE HURDLE (3-y-o: Novices: £1,239: 2m)
COMEDY FAIR b g by Comedy Star – Fair Saint (Mrs M Nowell) 0-0 J J O'Neill (6-5 fav) 1
Rhythmic Pastimes ..... J Francome (3-1) 2
Lor Moss ..... B Powell (50-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £2.10. Places: £1.20, £1.50, £6.70. DF: £2.50. CSF: £6.02. M H Easterby at Malton. ¾l, 1½l. Merry Tom (20-1) 4th. 18 ran. NRs: Master Carver, Prince Link. Tote double: £21.55. Paid on first leg only. Treble: £155.50. Placepot: £358.20.

Southwell

Going: good to soft.

11.45 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CHASE (Div I: Novices: £848: 3m 110yd)
SEA SPLASH br g by Menelek – Zeta's Daughter (J Hardy) 7-10-9 M Brennan (4-1) 1
Hope Gap ..... R Rowell (25-1) 2
Flying Jackdaw ..... G Newman (12-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £5.60. Places: £2.20, £3.00, £1.00. DF: £41.30. CSF: £70.95. O Brennan at Newark. 25l, 25l. Skewsby (4-6 fav). 8 ran. Only 3 finished. NRs: Emperor Napoleon, Little Tiger.

12.15 CHRISTMAS BOX HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: Selling: £482: 2m)
CUT'N DRY b c by Dubassof – Dissipation (J Johnson) 11-3 S McNeill (1-2 fav) 1
Picket Line ..... C Mann (33-1) 2
Little Hungarian ..... M Richards (25-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £1.80. Places: £1.00, £3.10, £3.90. DF: £23.20. CSF: £20.56. R Johnson at Crook. 1l, 4l. Le Baron Rouge (10-1) 4th. 11 ran. Bought in 1,900 gns.

12.45 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CHASE (Div II: Novices: £778: 3m 110yd)
JUST FOR THE CRACK ch g by The Parson – Rosesong (G Wills) 5-11-0 A Webber (5-4 fav) 1
Collaline ..... Mr D Trow (9-2) 2
Elroy ..... S J O'Neill (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £1.90. Places: £1.30, £1.50, £3.20. DF: £4.70. CSF: £6.90. K Bailey at East Ilsley. 5l, 10l. Riberion (8-1) 4th. 9 ran.

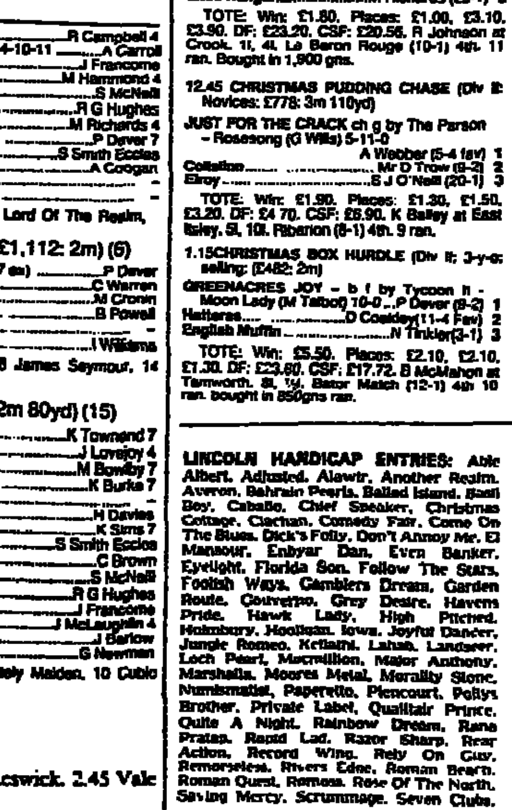
1.15 CHRISTMAS BOX HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: selling: £482: 2m)
GREENACRES JOY – b f by Tycoon II – Moon Lady (M Talbot) 10-0 P Dever (9-2) 1
Hatteras ..... D Coakley (11-4 Fav) 2
English Muffin ..... N Tinkler (3-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £5.50. Places: £2.10, £2.10, £1.30. DF: £23.60. CSF: £17.72. B McMahon at Tamworth. 8l, ½l. Bator Match (12-1) 4th 10 ran. bought in 850gns ran.

1.45 CHRISTMAS TREE CHASE (handicap: £1,322: 2m 74yd)
EVEN MELODY br g by Even Money – Scotch Tune (S Green) 14 11 7 C Hawkins (14-1) 1
Pea-Cock-Ade ..... A Webber (20-1) 2
Kindled Spirit ..... S J O'Neill (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £22.10. Places: £3.90, £6.90, £7.50. DF: winner or second with any other horse £3.60. CSF: £239.28. Tricast £4896.74 N Crump at Middleham. ½l, 1½l. Percipient (3-1 fav) Starlight Lad (16-1) 4th 15 ran.

2.15 CHRISTMAS CAKE (Handicap (£1,062: 2m 4f)
CROWECOPPER b g by Netherkelly – Cammy (P Crowe Ltd) 4-8 8 P Dever (14-1) 1
Glitter Star ..... R Rowell (14-1) 2
Double Discount ..... G McCourt (6-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £19.40. Places: £5.80, £75.60, £1.90, £4.70. DF: £108.50. CSF: £184.50. Tricast: £1181.43. B Preece at Telford. 2½l, 4l. Route March (20-1) 4th. King of States (4-1 fav) 18 ran.

2.45 CHRISTMAS STOCKING CHASE (handicap: £1,136: 3m 110yds)
MR SNUGFIT b g by Jukebox – Sinzinbra (A Greenwood) 6-11-12 P Tuck (5-1) 1
Preben Fur ..... D Coakley (12-1) 2
Socorro ..... A Webber (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £3.20. Places: £1.70, £3.50, £2.10. DF: £43.00. CSF: £57.99. Tricast: £977.49. M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. 7l, 12l. Worthy Heiress (5-2 fav) 4th. 12 ran.

3.15 CHRISTMAS PARTY HURDLE (novices: conditional jockeys: £414: 2m)
AONOCH b g by Deep Run – Santimwen (Mrs E Duggan) 4-11-6 J Duggan (4-11 fav) 1
Sir Blessed ..... R Campbell (9-2) 2
Fly Gate ..... M Jenkins (14-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £1.60. Places: £1.00, £2.00, £2.40. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.92. R Fisherat Ulverston. 1½ l, 2½ l. Woodland Generator (14-1) 4th. 15 ran. NR: Outlaw. PLACEPOT: £77.95.



LINCOLN HANDICAP ENTRIES: Able Albert, Adjusted, Alawir, Another Realm, Averon, Bahrain Pearls, Ballad Island, Basil Boy, Caballo, Chief Speaker, Christmas Cottage, Clachan, Comedy Fair, Come On The Blues, Dick's Folly, Don't Annoy Me, El Mansour, Enbyar Dan, Even Banker, Eyelight, Florida Son, Follow The Stars, Foolish Ways, Gamblers Dream, Garden Route, Gourvetpo, Grey Desire, Havens Pride, Hawk Lady, High Pitched, Holmbury, Hooligan, Iowa, Joyful Dancer, Jungle Romeo, Keliathi, Lahab, Landseer, Loch Pearl, Macmillion, Major Anthony, Marshalla, Moores Metal, Morality Stone, Numismatist, Paperetto, Pencourt, Pettys Brother, Private Label, Qualitair, Prince, Quite A Night, Rainbow Dream, Ratas, Record Lad, Razor Dream, Reel Action, Record Wing, Rely On Guy, Remorseless, Rivets Gold, Roman Quest, Roman Quest, Romeo, Rose Of The North, Saving Mercy, Scrummage, Seven Clubs, Shaady, Silly Boy, Skybool, So True, Southern Dancer, Star Of A Gunner, Steel Day, Stracomer Nurse, Teejay, Telephone Numbers, The Ripleylie, Throw Me Over, Top Of The Mark, Top O'Th' Lane, Toronto Star, Tropical Red, Trumps, Vintage Toll, Wallet, Warplane, Wibis Range, Young Daniel. To be run at Doncaster, March 24.

● The sponsors, Coral, have reduced Welsh National favourite Burrough Hill Lad from 5-1 to 4-1. Ashley House remains at 7-1 and Corbiere from 14-1 to 10-1. Get Out Of Me Way has also shortened to 10-1 from 14-1.

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS: All engagements (dead): Marcorinos, Beau Charles, Tarbank, Gilmorton Lad, Harbum Reliance, Scotch Run.

Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Suzuki makes impressive supermini debut

Suzuki has been making so called "micro" cars for almost 30 years. The bulk are sold in the Japanese home market where they fit very nicely into the company's much bigger motorcycle business. But sweeping changes are under way which will put increasing emphasis on the cars side.

The first outward sign of the new strategy is the one-litre SA310, the company's first full-sized family car. It is still only in the supermini class, dominated here by Austin Rover's Metro and Ford's Fiesta, but it is as far ahead of the present 800cc Suzuki Alto, as the Alto was of the original Suzulight two stroke 360cc "micro".

The new car will arrive here in about two months and should sell for a little under £4,000. That is about the going rate for its class. It could have been so much cheaper if Suzuki GB, the Heron group company which imports Suzuki cars, had not decided to make up for its restricted sales under the 11 per cent voluntary ceiling on Japan's share of the British market by opting for the most expensive version.

It comes complete with a full digital dashboard, which I found to be less appealing than the very clear old fashioned dials in the cheaper version I drove recently in Spain.

The car itself bears witness to General Motors involvement. The American giant owns 5 per cent of Suzuki and is planning to import large numbers of SA310s. The front is typically Japanese with its bug eyed look but the rest of the body shows some family resemblance to GM's own small car, the Nova. It provides marginally adequate accommodation for four adults as long as the front passengers do not hog too much of the restricted legroom.

The brand new, 993cc, three-cylinder, overhead camshaft engine is the lightest around, weighing only 138 lbs. It achieves that with extensive use of aluminium and even has hollow-ground crankshafts. Driving the front wheels through a sweetly operated five-speed gearbox, it is easily the most impressive feature of the new car.

Readers familiar with the Spanish coast around Marbella will know the testing road up a mountain-pass to the little town of Ronda. It is becoming popular with car companies eager to demonstrate that their latest offering can take any punishment thrown at it.

In a one-litre car like the SA310 the frequent gear changes required to push it close to its limits quickly show up any engine roughness or poorly chosen gear ratios. The Suzuki scored well on all those counts and was unusually quiet. It has a claimed top speed of 90mph and a 0-60mph time of 15 seconds.

But the ride and roadholding are not in the same street as the engine. The problem is the somewhat agricultural one-piece rear axle and simple leaf springs. It is safe enough because it gives plenty of warning of a rear end breakaway by hopping sideways before settling into a skid. The solid rear axle is also the prime cause of a poor choppy ride.

High tyre pressures requested by the Japanese engineers to cope with pass-storming British juornalists was offered as an excuse for the choppy ride. I have my doubts but look forward to a longer test in this country.



The Peugeot 205GR; vigorous performance

Motorway speeds

Next Wednesday a petition bearing nearly 100,000 signatures will be presented to Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, urging legislation to increase the 70mph speed limit on our motorways. The petition forms were completed by readers of Motor Sport, and Motoring News. Michael Cotton, managing editor of Motor Sport, says the present limit is widely ignored and enforced only on a random basis, making it a bad law. He suggests an advisory speed limit for different sections of motorway as on the legally "unlimited" German autobahns.

Regular motorway users know that the average speed in the overtaking lane has long been in the 80s. But it only needs the presence of a police car on the hard shoulder or overhead crossing to bring speeds down for the next few miles. It induces a sense of caution. I am convinced that if the maximum was 80mph we should travel at 90mph and so on.

All in all, I like the present 70mph limit and the commonsense approach of the police in most areas. But I should like to hear the views of readers. Please write to me at The Times Midland office, Albany House, Hurst Street, Birmingham B5 4BD.

Diesel winner

The Peugeot 205 diesel is just what the doctor ordered for those sceptics who still refuse to accept that the diesel-powered car is now ready to challenge half a century of petrol supremacy. The technology, engineering and production know-how are there. All that is needed is a coordinated campaign by the industry to clean up the diesel's image and win acceptability by more motorists.

The 205 is now firmly established as the French group's very competitive contender in the supermini battle with 954cc, 1124cc and 1360cc petrol engines. But it was designed from the outset to take a diesel. The trouble was also making some very significant improvements in the state of the diesel art with Vera, its experimental fuel-saving project.

It had originally planned to install a 1255cc diesel in the 205 but a pressing timetable and the need for further development persuaded it to compromise and use a modified 1.8 litre version of the well regarded 1.9 litre unit already used in the Peugeot 305 and Talbot Horizon. It was a compromise which succeeded beyond the company's wildest dreams.

It has become increasingly acceptable in recent years to use a big lightly stressed engine pulling a high gear to achieve improved fuel economy without losing the flexibility so necessary if the car is to retain drivability. But the biggest stumbling block is the additional weight and its effect on the car's balance, a critical factor in ride and handling.

The 1.8 diesel is nearly 20 kilos heavier than Peugeot's 1.3 petrol engine but the extra weight is only noticeable because the smooth surging way it delivers its power induces you to drive it like a souped up GT. Vigorous sawing at the wheel makes you aware of the extra weight over the front wheels.

It is only a marginal inconvenience, however, compared with the 60 miles a gallon I returned in a car which proved so lively and enjoyable that I frequently forgot it was a diesel. Starting was child's play even after very cold nights in the open, thanks to the now universally used pre-heater sparkplugs.

I only requires a few seconds' delay before turning the starting key. It then bursts into life with the familiar diesel clatter which many drivers still find offputting but that disappears completely when under way. And it performs so vigorously that passengers need reassuring that it is indeed a diesel.

At £5,345 the five-speed GRD costs only £400 more than the 1.3 litre petrol engined GR. The four-speed GLD is an even better snip at £4,745; Peugeot says it has a similar top speed and fuel consumption to the five-speeder but is slightly slower on acceleration.

Vital statistics

Model: Peugeot 205 GRD
Price: £5,345
Engine: 1,769cc diesel
Official consumption: Urban, 52.3mpg; 56mph, 72.4mpg; and 75mph, 54.3mpg
Performance: Maximum speed, 96.3mph; 0-62mph, 15.1 sec
Length: 12.1 ft
Insurance: Group 3

PERSONAL COLUMNS

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CLEGG, ROBERT STEWART CLEGG, late of 17 Seabank Road, Wallasey, Merseyside, was found dead there on 6th December 1981 (Estate about £7,200). The mother of the above-named is requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B.V.), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

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CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

Issue	Deadlines
26 December	NO PAPER
27 December	22 December, 5 pm
28 December	22 December, 5 pm
29 December	22 December, 5 pm
2 January	29 December, 5 pm
3 January	29 December, 5 pm
4 January	29 December, 5 pm

FOOD AND WINE

LEGAL NOTICES

WISETREK Limited and THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 293 of The Companies Act, 1948, that a MEETING OF THE CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held at 1, Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT, on Thursday, 22 December, 1983 at 3.00 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.
Dated this 5th December 1983.

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Entertainments

THEATRES

OPERA & BALLET

CONCERTS

هكذا من الأصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM: News and information service, available on all television sets, with teletext or not.

6.30 Breakfast Time: with Frank Bough and Fern Britton. Today's Friday "specials" include pop news (between 7.45 and 8.00), Audrey Eyton's health phone-in (8.30-9.00) and Glynn Christian's food and cookery spot (8.45-9.00). Regular items include news at 6.30 and half-hourly until 8.30.

9.00 My Music: Steve Race tests the musical knowledge of Frank Muir, John Amis, Denis Norden and Ian Wallace (r).

.30 Play School: Pat Hutchins's story Clocks and More Clocks; 10.55 Play Ideas: with Chloe Ashcroft; 11.05 Closedown.

2.30 News After Noon: with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale; 12.57 Financial Report. And subtitled news.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Caring for the plants that someone may give you as a Christmas gift; 1.45 Little Misses and the Mister Men: for the toddlers.

2.00 The Big Time: The Southsea curate (the Rev Taffy Davies) who was given the chance to be a Fleet Street cartoonist (r); 2.50 Horizon: The Case of the UFOs: An intelligent man's guide to strange objects in space. Police officers, astronauts – and even former President Jimmy Carter – claim that they have seen them (r).

3.40 Cartoon: Tex Avery's Henpecked Hoboes; 3.55 Play School: It's Friday. For the toddlers; 4.20 The Adventures of Bullwinkle and Rocky: episode 8 of the cartoon serial; 4.25 Jackanory: Nerys Hughes reads from Berlie Doherty's The Making of Fingers Finnigan; 4.40 Take Hart: with Tony Hart and Co; 5.00 Crackerjack: with Basil Brush, Tears for Fears, Bucks Fizz, and Charlie Caine and Company. And two stars from the sporting world help the finalists of It's in the Box.

5.40 Sixty Minutes: Includes news at 5.40, regional magazines at 5.53, weather at 6.15, and closing headlines at 6.38.

6.40 Show Business: what's on, starring whom, and where to see it. This is the final programme in a series that seems to have been assembled in a hurry.

.05 Match of the Day – Live: Jimmy Hill introduces the Manchester United versus Tottenham Hotspur match, at Old Trafford. The commentator: John Motson.

.00 News: the reader is Sue Lawley. And weather prospects for the weekend.

.25 Knots Landing: An old colleague of Karen's turns up. She is a successful New York fashion designer, and she suggests that Karen should go to New York and work for her. Michele Lee plays Karen.

.15 The Chieftain's Images of Ireland: Traditional music, performed by Paddy Moloney, Kevin Conneff, Matt Molloy, Sean Keane, Martin Fay and Derek Bell.

.50 International Show Jumping: The Cognac Courvoisier Napoleon Stakes, from Olympia. Commentators: Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley.

.55 Film: Rage (1972) Strong drama, starring (and directed by) George C. Scott, as the sheep farmer who takes drastic action when nerve gas, leaking from a helicopter's tank, kills his sheep and makes his son ill. With Richard Basehart and Martin Sheen (President Kennedy in the recent ITV film). Ends at 1.35 am.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain: with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Today's Friday "specials" include Checkout (6.45, 9.02), Viewers' Views on the Monday Moan (7.50) and Open Doors (8.45). Regular items include news at 6.30 and half-hourly until 9.00; sport (6.35 and 7.35), Today's papers (6.25), John Stapleton's Spotlight (7.05) and Competition Time (8.25).

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines. Followed by Sesame Street: the Muppets help children up the tree of knowledge; 10.25 Wilkie in Winter: Winter sports film, with David Wilkie; 10.50 Art of Ceramic Glazing: Hans from Leon Moburg; 11.05 The Dazzle: Edna O'Brien reads her story; 11.30 Film Fun-the Movie: Derek Griffiths and film clips (r).

12.00 We'll Tell you a Story: with Christopher Lillicrap (r); 12.10 Rainbow: repeated at 4.00; 12.30 Understanding Toddlers: The limits that both parents and children impose. With Anna Ford.

1.00 News; 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 About Britain: Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard: Pages from the history of the Royal Scots (350 years old this year); 2.00 Private Benjamin: American army comedy series, starring Lorna Patterson.

2.30 Snooker: First semi-final of the Hofmeister World Doubles (more at 11.00pm); 3.30 Sons and Daughters: Australian drama serial.

4.00 Children's ITV: Rainbow (r); 4.20 Dangermouse: The Planet of the Cats: episode five (r); 4.25 Sooty; 4.50 Freetime: All the fun of the Freetime circus; 5.15 The Young Doctors: Australian hospital life.

5.45 News from ITN: 6.00 The 6 o'clock Show: News of the lighter sort. And studio guests.

7.00 Family Fortunes: Tonight's competing are the Crows from Birtley, Durham, and the Stewarts from Winch Wen, Swansea. With Max Bygraves.

7.30 Film: Man About the House (1974) Cinema version of the TV comedy series co-starring Richard O'Sullivan and Paula Wilcox. About a college student (O'Sullivan) who shares a flat with two girls in an Edwardian terraced house earmarked for development. With Sally Thomsett.

9.00 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet: Comedy series about a bunch of Geordie brickies working on a German construction site. For different reasons, Dennis (Tim Healy) and Neville (Kevin Whately) are worried about their wives.

10.00 News at Ten. Followed by London news headlines. Followed at 10.30 by: The London Programme: Police forces outside London claim dramatic results in their campaign to reduce the number of deaths from drunken driving over the Christmas period. Tonight's programme poses the question: Is London itself lagging in the fight against drivers who drink.

11.00 Snooker: The first best-of-17 frames semi-final of the Hofmeister World Doubles 1983.

12.30 I'm Coming Home: What happened when the Welsh singing star Tom Jones recently returned to his native Wales after a decade of self-imposed exile in the United States. He attends a special homecoming party in his home town of Pontypridd. Followed by: Night Thoughts: the Rev Jim Graham, of Goldhill Baptist Church, on the characters of Christmas.

Klaus Kinski: Nosferatu the Vampyre (Channel 4, 11.15pm)

CHOICE

● HEARTATTACK HOTEL (BBC 2, 9.25pm), Andrew Davies's black comedy, is horribly enjoyable, though I must tell you that it will not put you in the right mood for Christmas if you happen to think, with Leigh Hunt, that Yuletide is the time of too much everything but thinking. Over-indulgence, says this unseasonable play, can play the devil with you. Worse, it can help to ensure that you will not be around to see any more Christmases. I need only refer you to the title of Mr Davies's play if you should accuse me of giving too much away when I say that "Nothing succeeds like excess" could well be the slogan of the gruesome twosome who run the luxurious hotel to which problem cases are drawn like moths towards a flame. But too much food and drink are merely part of the bait in this velvet trap. The truly deadly ingredient is human weakness, and it is this area of misfortune that Mr Davies explores with fiendish delight in a play that is so sumptuously designed that it almost persuades us that Hell could be a good place to spend a weekend even though Michael Gough's Mephistophelean host is sadly deficient in the social graces.

● The play Heartattack Hotel notwithstanding, it is an indifferent night on television and the special Christmas programmes will not arrive a minute too soon. AUF WIEDERSEHEN, PET (ITV, 9.00pm) does, however, continue to hold up quite well, thanks to Dick Clement's and Ian Le Frenais's well-rounded characters and some fine ensemble playing from the Geordie 'brickies'.

● Inevitably, there is a background of sadness to IT STICKS OUT HALF A MILE (Radio 2, 10.00pm) for it proved to be John Le Mesurier's swan-song. But there is some good comedy writing in this "Son of Dad's Army", featuring three of the characters from the much-loved Home Guard series, and the departed Le Mesurier can still make us laugh with that diffident style that he perfected over so many years of character acting on television and, even more so, on radio. . . . A reminder, finally, that tonight (Radio 3, 9.30) is Judgment Night in the 1983 National Poetry Competition, organised by the Poetry Society and Radio 3.

BBC 2

5.35 News summary: with subtitles. And weather prospects for the weekend.

5.40 International Show Jumping: from Olympia. The accent is on items with a special appeal for the youngsters, including circus acts and the Shetland Pony Grand National.

6.30 Friday Western: The Law and Jake Wade (1958) John Sturges's western co-stars Richard Widmark as an outlaw rescued from prison by his former partner in crime (Robert Taylor) who is determined to go straight. Photographed by Robert Surtees, three times an Oscar winner. Co-starring Patricia Owens and Robert Middleton.

7.55 A Modern Consort: The Duke of Gloucester shares the commentators' chores with Chris Kelly at the Royal College of Arts where the Prince Albert exhibition is being held. Also at the exhibition: Rod Gadney, of the Royal College, and the historian Professor Michael Thompson.

8.25 Dance International: The Netherlands Dance Theatre in the ballet TRansfigured Night: music by Schoenberg, choreography by Jiri Kylian.

8.55 M*A*S*H: In a morale-lifting exercise, Colonel Potter decides that, for a day, officers and men should change places – which explains how Klinger suddenly becomes company commander.

9.25 Heartattack Hotel: Black comedy, by Andrew Davies. It is about a macabre weekend spent in a luxurious country hotel which offers all the classic ingredients for a heart attack – too much eating, too much drinking, and too much rich, unaccustomed exercise. Starring Michael Gough, Madge Ryan, Robert Lang and Hugh Fraser. (See Choice.)

10.50 Newsnight: bulletins and analysis.

11.35 Weekly Test on the Road: Aztec Camera are the featured band. Mark Ellen introduces the concert which comes from Aston University, in Birmingham. Ends at 12.20am.

Michael Gough, Madge Ryan (BBC 2, 9.25pm)

CHANNEL 4

5.00 The Munsters: Horror film spoof. Herman (Fred Gwynne) spots Grandpa's photograph in the missing persons column of a detective magazine and there is a thousand dollar reward on his head.

5.30 The Tube: Pop music show, presented by Jools Holland and Leslie Ash. The guests include Mark Mikwurdz and Echo and the Bunnymen. And there is an interview, on film, with Paul McCartney.

7.00 Channel Four News. Followed by weather prospects for the weekend.

7.30 The Right to Reply: The half-hour slot which offers Channel 4 viewers a chance to put their opinions to the programme makers. Chaired, as always, by Gus MacDonald.

8.00 The Amateur Naturalist: The Cost of High Living. Gerald and Lee Durrell in the Rocky Mountains of Canada. As they climb higher, they pursue elk with a home-made elk-caller. Then they capture some bats, which they mark with phosphorescent paint so they can examine the flight pattern of the nocturnal creatures. Finally, they arrive at a glacier.

8.30 A Week in Politics: Signs of rebellion in Labour-controlled councils as the new rate support grant is announced. Environment Secretary Patrick Jenkin is interviewed.

9.15 Rockers Roadshow: A showwindow for Britain's black music makers. Tonight's show comes from the Rising Star, Bilston, in the Midlands. The entertainers include Beshara, Pre Wax, and Madium Wave.

10.00 The Paul Hogan Show: A second chance to see the instalment featuring the mimed picnic.

10.30 Picture of Health: Just Like Rain. An examination of the link between ill health and the increasing use of pesticides in Britain. The focus of controversy has now fallen on the herbicide 2,4,5-T, banned in a number of countries, but still in use in Britain. It is manufactured in a series of chemical reactions during which TCDD (better known as Dioxin) is formed. It was this highly toxic substance that was released in the accident at Seveso, Italy, in 1976, with disastrous result.

11.15 What the Censor Saw: Nosferatu, the Vampyre (1979) Werner Herzog's remake of F. W. Murnau's classic horror story, starring Klaus Kinski as Dracula (in the original, the vampire went under the name of Graf Orlok). Herzog's film has been highly praised for its superb photography (by Jorg Schmidt-Reitwein) and for its striking production design (by Henning von Gierke and Ulrich Bergfelder). The Bram Stoker novel has provided tonight's film with its inspiration, but many liberties have been taken with the book's text. Ends at 1.10am.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.25 Shipping.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News Summary. 6.45 Prayer for Day. 7.00, 8.00 Today's News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport.
7.45 Thought for Day.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
8.50 Your Letters.
8.57 Weather.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs. Artist John Piper. (r).
9.45 Feedback. Your views and comments about BBC TV and radio put to producers and management.
10.00 News; International Assignment. BBC correspondents review a contemporary issue.
10.30 Morning Story: Birthday Girl by Jill Norris, read by Mary Wimbush.
10.45 Daily Service.
11.00 News; Travel; Yellow rain: Genocide or myth? The evidence in the 'yellow rain' mystery, which caused death and disease in SE Asia. (r).
11.48 Natural Selection. The lyre bird of Australia.
12.00 News; You and Yours.
12.27 Top of the Form. Final of the contest.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers.
1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; Woman's Hour from Manchester. Items include an interview with blind playwright Pat Wilson (70 titles, all for the amateur stage). Plus part 13 of The Ladies of Lyndon.
3.00 News; Sybil or 'The Two Nations' by Benjamin Disraeli (5).†
4.00 News; Just after Four. With Colonel John Blashford-Snell.
4.30 The spirit of Kitty Hawk. The story of some of the people who have made aviation history (5). Test pilots of the jet age.
4.40 Story Time: 'A Kind of Treason' by George Macbeth (12). Frank Duncan reads the final part.
5.00 PM: News magazine.
5.50 Shipping forecast.
5.55 Weather; Programme News.
6.00 The Six O'clock News; Financial Report.
6.30 Going Places. The world of travel and transport.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the Week. Programme highlights with Margaret Howard.
8.10 Profile. A personal portrait.
8.30 Any Questions? from Bishopsgate, London. With David Steel, Denis Healey, John Selwyn Gummer, and Lesley Abdela.
9.30 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine.
9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight: News.
10.35 Week Ending. A satirical review of the week's news.†
11.00 A Book at Bedtime. 'Ask Mamma' by R. S. Surtees (10.
11.15 The Financial World tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
11.45 Glyn Worsnip in the BBC Sound Archives.
12.00 News.
2.10 Weather.
1.15 Shipping forecast.
ENGLAND, VHF with 1f above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather; Travel. 1.55 Listening Corner. 5.50-5.55 PM (continued). 11.00-12.00 Study on 4: 11.00 Digame! Suplemento. 11.30 The Training Revolution.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert. Part one. Ethyl Smyth (The Wreckers overture), Beethoven Piano Sonata in C sharp minor (Moonlight), Stanley (Concerto in D, Op 2 No 1, Britten (Suites on English folk songs: A Time There Was. . .).†
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert: part two. Smetana (overture Bartered Bride), Handel (Concerto Grosso in F, Op 6 No 9), Fauré (Pavane). Bloch (Concerto grosso for strings with piano obbligato).†
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Berlioz Overture and Act 2 Beatrice and Benedict. With Janet Baker and Robert Tear in title roles and the LSO/Sir Colin Davis.†
10.00 A Franchman in America: Music for two pianos by Milhaud. David Johns and Jeremy Brown. Carnival à la Nouvelle Orleans Kentuckiana; and Le bal martiniquais.†
10.25 Northern Sinfonia Ensemble: Britten's Sinfonietta, Op 1: Alois Haba's Nonet No 1 Op 40, Wolf-Ferrari's Chamber Symph in B flat Op 8.†
11.30 Haydn and Schubert: recital with Felicity Lott (soprano) and Graham Johnson (piano). Includes Schubert's Songs from 1823, and Haydn's The Spirit's Song.†
12.15 Midday Prom: BBC Phil with Paul Galbraith (guitar). Part one. Prokofiev's Symph No 4, Op 112 (revised edition 1947).†
1.00 News.
1.05 Six Continents: Foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.
1.20 Midday Prom: part two. Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez, and Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio espagnol.†
2.05 London Baroque: John Jenkins's Fantasy a 3 in F. Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue: Sonata in D, and Marin Marias's La gamme en forme de petit opera, part two.†
3.00 Haydn and Field: New Irish Chamber Orch, with John O'Conor (piano). Haydn's Symph No 67, and Field's Piano Conc No 7 in C minor.†
4.00 Choral Evensong: from Canterbury Cathedral. Organist Allan Wicks.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: Another of David Hoult's selections. Including Beethoven's String Quartet Op 18 No 2; and Falla's Suite Populaire Espagnol.†
6.30 Music for Guitar: recital by Ricardo Iznaola. Britten's Nocturnal Op 70, and Ravel, arr Iznaola Alborada del Gracioso.†
7.00 Violin and Piano: recital by Richard Deakin (violin) and Catherine Dubois. Delius (Violin Sonata III), and Lennox Berkeley (Sonatina).†
7.30 Music of Eight Decades: Concert, direct from Royal Festival Hall, London. Part one. John Buller's The Theatre of Memory. With the BBC Symph Orch, and soloists including Jessye Norman and Ross Pople (cello). †
8.10 A Clear Conscience: short story by Carmen Maria Gaite, read by Stephen Moore.
8.40 Concert: part two. Debussy's Rondes de printemps; and Olivier Messiaen's Poemes pour Mi.†
9.30 Poetry 83: The 1983 National Poetry Competition. The major prizewinners are announced. With readings, and the views of the judges.
10.20 Arnold Bax Centenary: Music for two pianos, played by Howard Shelley and Hilary Macnamara. The works include Festival Overture, 1909 (world premiere), the Poisoned Fountain, 1928; and Saint Anthony, 1928.†
11.00 The Complete Webern: with the London Sinfonietta and Phyllis Bryn–Julson (soprano). Webern's orchestrations of Schubert songs including those from Winterreise and Die schone Mullerin.†
11.15 News. Until 11.18.
VHF only Open University. 11.20pm Into the Open and 11.40-12.00 Technology: Values and Beliefs.

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 8.00pm and 9.00). Major bulletins 7.00am, 8.00, 1.00pm, 5.00 and 12.00 midnight. Headlines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 (MF/MW). 5.00am Colin Berry.† 7.00 Ray Moore.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00pm Music While You Work.† 12.30 Gloria Hunniford. † 2.02 Sports Desk. 2.30 Ed Stewart.† 3.02 Sports Desk. 4.00 David Hamilton.† 4.02, 5.30 Sports Desk. 6.00 John Dunn.† including 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only). 7.30 Male Voice Choirs Competition. Twenty-four choirs compete to find the Radio Wales Male Voice Choir of the Year.† 8.15 Friday Night is Music Night direct from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London.† 9.30 The Mike Sammes Singers.† 9.57 Sports Desk. 10.00 It Sticks Out Half a Mile. A seaside comedy starring John Le Mesurier, Ian Lavender and Bill Pertwee. 10.30 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from midnight). 1.00am Night Owls with Dave Gelly.† 2.00-5.00 Liz Allen presents You and the night and the Music.†

Radio 1

News on the half hour 6.30am–8.30pm, then at 10.00 and 12.00 midnight (MF/MW). 6.00am Adrian John. 7.00 Mark Page. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Mike Smith, including 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00 Gary Davies. 4.30 Peter Powell's Select-A-Disc. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.00 Andy Peebles. 9.00-12.00 The Friday Rock Show.† VHF RADIOS 1 and 2 5.00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Breakthrough. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The English Air. 8.30 Modern Russian Writers. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Album Time. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 10.30 Business Matters. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 In the Meantime. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Jazz for the Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty Four Hours. 1.30 Radio Theatre. 2.15 Letterbox. 2.30 John Peel. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Science in Action. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Sarah and Company. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four hours. 8.15 Music Now. 9.45 The Painter of signs. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 From the Weeklies. 11.30 Homeopathy in Fact. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Sarah and Company. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Classical Record Review. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 A Closer Look. 3.50 Recording of the Week. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Kings of Jazz. 5.45 The World Today. All times in GMT

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN. † Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC1 WALES 12.57-1.00pm News. 3.53-3.55 News. 5.53 (Part of Sixty Minutes) Wales Today. 10.15-10.30 Sportfolio. 10.30-11.20 Week In Week Out. 11.20-11.21 News. 11.21 Join BBC 1 Olympia Show Jumping. SCOTLAND 12.55-1.00pm. news. 12.55-1.00 News. 5.53 Part of Sixty Minutes) Scotland: Sixty Minutes. 7.05-9.0 Film: The Way West. 9.25-9.55 Double Bill. 9.55-10.27 Agenda. 10.27-10.30 News. 10.30-11.20 Knot's Landing. 11.20 Olympia Show Jumping. NORTHERN IRELAND 12.57-1.0pm News. 3.53-3.55 News. 5.53 (Part of Sixty Minutes) Scene Around Six. 10.15-10.45 Spotlight. 10.45-10.50 News. 11.55-1.30 Film: Impasse (Burt Reynolds). 1.30 News. ENGLAND 5.53pm (Part of Sixty Minutes). 10.15-10.45 East – Weekend. Midlands – Black Christmas. North – Goodbye to The Good Old Days. North East – Coast to Coast: Durham Cathedral. North West: A Winter's Tale. Christmas words and music. South – Southern Life. South West – The Gift of A lamb. The first Christmas by Charles Causley. West – Day Out: the Vale of Berkeley.

S4C Starts 2.20pm Stori Sbri. 2.35 Interval. 2.45 Spice of Life. 3.10 Book 4. 3.55 Today's History. 4.20 Countdown. 4.50 Lowri a'r Capten. 5.00 Campeto. 5.30 Bands of Gold. 6.25 Addams Family. 6.55 Gair yn ei Bryd. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 Sion a Sian. 8.00 Pobol y Cwm. 8.30 Pawb a'i Fys. 9.15 Paul Hogan Show. 9.45 Soap. 10.15 Film: Flame to the Phoenix. 11.40 Our Lives. 12.30am Gair yn ei Bryd, Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

TYNE TEES As London except: 10.25am Stan and Ollie*. 10.50 Vicky the Viking. 11.15-11.35 History Makers. 12.30pm-1.00 Snow Children. 1.20-1.30 News and Lookaround. 2.00-2.30 That's Hollywood. 5.15-5.45 Silver Spoons. 6.00 Northern Life. 6.20-7.00 Weekend Lift-Off. 7.30-9.00 Film: Bad Day at Black Rock (Lee Marvin). 10.32 Snooker. 12.30am Three's Company, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am-9.30 First Thing. 10.25 Space 1999. 11.20-11.35 Educational Short. 12.30pm-1.00 Pine Tree. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-2.30 Preview. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Benson. 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 10.30 Points North. 11.30 Snooker. 12.15am News, Closedown.

TVS As London except: 10.25am Matt and Jenny. 10.45 Struggle Beneath the Sea. 11.10-11.35 On Safari. 12.30pm-1.00 Full Life. 1.20 News. 1.30 Afternoon Club. 1.35 About Britain. 2.00-2.30 Farmhouse Kitchen. 3.30-4.00 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.30-7.00 Friday Sportshow. 10.30 Snooker. 12.30am Company, Closedown.

HTV As London except: 10.25am Travel Log. 11.15 Poetry of Landscape. 11.30-11.35 Cartoon. 12.30pm-1.00 Hands. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-2.30 Superstar Profile. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 So What's Your Problem? 10.30-11.00 Press Call.-12.30am Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV except: 6.00pm-7.00 Wales at Six. 10.30-11.00 Another Window on the World.

CHANNEL As London except: Starts 12.00-12.10pm We'll Tell You a Story. 12.30-1.00 Till Divorce Do Us Part. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-2.30 Pick Up Your Feet. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 Crossroads. 6.55-7.00 What's On Where. 10.35 Snooker. 12.30am Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 10.25am Stan and Ollie*. 10.45-11.35 Space 1999. 12.30pm-1.00 Byre Theatre. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-2.30 Portrait of a Legend. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.30-7.00 Survival of the Fittest. 10.30 Snooker. 12.30am News, Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 10.25am Spread Your Wings. 10.50 Karati Spirit. 11.05-11.35 This is Cross Country. 12.30pm-1.00 Sparrowhawk. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-2.30 Flying Kiwi. 3.30-4.00 One of the Boys. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.30 Sports Extra. 6.45-7.00 Hear Here. 10.30-11.00 Ways and Means. 12.30am Late Call, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Day Ahead. 10.25 Larry the Lamb. 10.40 Crazy World of Sport. 11.05 Cartoon. 11.20-11.35 Sally and Jake. 12.30pm-1.00 Hands. 1.20-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.00-2.30 Fixed for the Future. 3.30-4.00 Paint Along with Nancy. 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.45-7.00 Advice. 10.30 Witness. 10.35 Snooker. 12.30am News, Closedown.

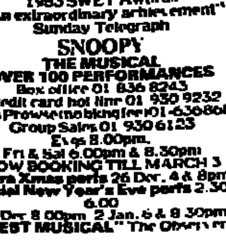
GRANADA As London except: 10.25am Mountain Men. 10.40 Flying Kiwi. 11.05 Alphabet. 11.30-11.35 Professor Kitzel. 12.30pm-1.00 Whose Baby? 1.20-1.30 Granada Reports. 2.00-2.30 Spice of Life. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Beverley Hillbillies. 6.00 News. 6.05-7.00 Weekend. 10.30 Snooker. 12.30am Film: Haunted and the Hunted.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 10.25am Clowns. 10.50 Flying Kiwi. 11.15-11.35 That Girl. 12.30pm-1.00 Stress. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-2.30 Corries and other Folk. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00-7.00 Calendar and Sport. 10.30 Snooker. 12.30am Closedown.

TSW As London except: 10.25am Land of the Dragon. 10.50 Joe 90. 11.15-11.35 Different Timbres. 12.30pm-1.00 Till Divorce Do Us Part? 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-2.30 Pick Up Your Feet. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 What's Ahead. 10.35 Snooker. 12.30am Postscript, Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 10.25am European Folk Tales. 10.45-12.00 Film: Blockheads* (Laurel and Hardy). 12.30pm-1.00 Hands. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00-2.30 Struggle Beneath the Sea. 5.15-5.45 Whose Baby? 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 10.30-11.00 Cross Question Quiz. 12.30am Feast of Advent, Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 10.25am European Folk Tales. 10.35-12.00 Film: Topper Returns* (Roland Young). 12.30pm-1.00 Fire of Harmony. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.30 Legends of the Screen. 5.15 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00-7.00 News. 10.30 Snooker. 12.30am Closedown.



Anger over blocking of EEC rebate

Continued from page 1

this before December 31, although he might agree to a delay until the end of next month if the council asks him to negotiate further on the terms.

As far as the Council is concerned, the budget is illegal for at least four reasons. Mr Adonis Georgiadis, the Greek Ministser currently chairing the budget council, said after the vote that there were political and legal problems ahead.

The political one was the result of blocking the British rebate; the legal one derived from the way in which Parliament had unilaterally increased its powers over part of the budget and had reclassified some categories of spending in a way which the council believed was wrong.

Member states will have to decide in the next couple of weeks whether or not to take the Parliament to court. If they fail to do so Britain could still go ahead on its own, but such a process would be very long and would be difficult for the case to get anywhere before the March deadline.

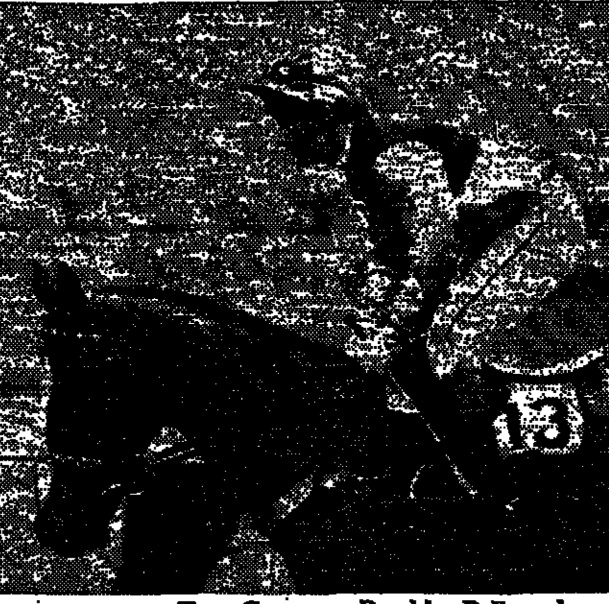
Yesterday's Commons exchanges were at one point reduced to a match of resolution, with Mr Kinnock accusing Mrs Thatcher of "huffing and puffing" and the Prime Minister replying that she could not compete with the Labour leader on that score.

● Foreign Office reaction: The Foreign Office said in a statement: "We deplore this discriminatory action by the European Parliament. It runs completely counter to the Parliament's own resolution in October not to discriminate against any member state.

The Parliament brings discredit on itself by taking action against two member states for the failure of the Community as a whole to reach agreement at Athens, particularly since we have been pressing for many of the reforms which the Parliament itself called for in the Arndt resolution. To freeze Britain's refund by putting it into reserve chapter 100 will not help to resolve the Community's problems.

"Such actions by Parliament will only make an already difficult situtiion even worse, and will risk distracting attention from the management negotiations which should be given first priority over the next few months."

Carson junior takes a tumble





Tony Carson on Brockley Belle and, seconds later, on the ground as father looks on.



Carrying his son's helmet, Willie Carson sees the stretcher into the ambulance.

Willie Carson, the champion jockey with more than 2,000 wins to his credit, watched proudly yesterday as his son set off in his first public race at Haydock Park racecourse.

Seconds later, his pride changed to disappointment as Tony Carson, aged 20, fell badly at the second fence, in the Beeches Farm Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle.

He crashed to the ground and lay grimacing with pain for several minutes before he was put on a stretcher and taken away in the course ambulance.

His father, who had been watching from the stands, went to comfort his son at St Helen's general hospital, where he was treated for severe bruising and later discharged.

The fall is the second piece of bad luck for Tony Carson. He should have had his first ride five weeks ago at Hereford, but the horse he was to have ridden was held up in traffic and failed to arrive in time to register.

His disappointed father said yesterday: "I was mentally upsides with Tony during the race."

Dr F. Lennon, the course medical officer, added: "Tony is in some pain, but in good spirits. It is nothing terrible." The fall was also seen by Tony's mother, Carol.

Battleship bombards Lebanese militias

Continued from page 1

the United States with its fighting spirit".

● LONDON: Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, took the unusual step of telephoning Mr Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Druze militia, to protest about artillery fire which landed near the British headquarters (Rodney Cowton writes).

He said on BBC radio that he had been at 10 Downing Street with the Prime Minister on Wednesday when the news came through.

Mr Heseltine said Mr Jumblatt had assured him "that he would do everything possible to ensure the safety of our people".

● ATHENS: Greece announced that, after obtaining adequate assurances of safe passage, it had authorized five ships to sail for Tripoli today to evacuate the 4,000 Palestinians loyal to Mr Yassir Arafat trapped there (Mario Modiano writes).

Gemayel in London and journalists under US fire, page 7

Clash of Soviet chess titans draws nearer

Continued from page 1

play Korchnoi's own openings against him.

"He is a much more aggressive player than Karpov, although Karpov knows more positions and is more tranquil. He has been magnificent as a world champion, and will be hard to beat".

Alexander Roshal, chess correspondent of Moscow Radio and the magazine *Soviet Sport*: It has become clear that Kasparov has become no weaker than Korchnoi in the endgame. It is now apparent that, apart from experience, Korchnoi has no advantage. His nerves gave in, and lost him any advantage he had.

"The most interesting match imaginable today is Kasparov v Karpov; for anyone else to take on Karpov would be hopeless. Any outcome would be useful for Kasparov, but as the younger man I think he must take less offence at defeat". Mr Roshal then shyly disclosed that he was first deputy to none other than Karpov.

Game report, page 2

Frank Johnson in the Commons

The Princess of wails

Mr Donald Dixon, the Labour member for Jarrow, contemptuously inquired of the Prime Minister yesterday whether she recalled her speech at Swansea three years ago when she advised the unemployed "to be mobile".

Mrs Thatcher replied to the effect that the employment situation was improving in Swansea. By his demeanour as she was speaking, it was apparent that Mr Dixon was dissatisfied with this reply on the ground that his constituency was Jarrow, not Swansea. But she was not to know that. Mr Dixon, a man who places little emphasis on mere charm, looked as if he could be the member for Swansea or Jarrow or indeed most other places.

Perhaps she might have had second thoughts had she originally been under the impression that he was the member for Frinton-on-Sea or the Dean of Peterhouse or chaplain to the Queen Mother. But, despite his protests, or perhaps she could not hear them above the usual question time hubbub, she persisted in regarding him as the member for Swansea.

"There has been an enterprise zone created in Swansea which is one of the successful enterprise zones ...,' she intoned. "Jarrow, Jarrow", Mr Dixon protested "... to draw more industry into the area," continued the Prime Minister, wisely adhering to her first assessment that she was *dealing with a man from* Swansea.

Mr Dixon fidgeted and waved his order paper in dismay. Perhaps his dismay was caused by the sheer injustice of a social system which regards the problems of Jarrow as being best solved by new enterprise zones in Swansea.

"Swansea has been one area which has been successful in getting inward investment for this country because we are a member of the European Community," she obliviously continued. Aboveall, she was no doubt confident that there would be no need for another Swansea Hunger March.

Mr Dixon would not have been justified in regarding the Prime Minister's reply as innapropriate. For in that speech at Swansea three years ago she did advise the unemployed to be more mobile. She was perhaps assuming that some of them had now reached Swansea. So Mrs Thatcher resumed her seat, having answered the question to her own satisfaction.

Mr Dixon continued to look disapproving. But it is misunderstandings such as these which make British Prime Minister's questions the envy of the world. On the other hand, it was possible that she knew all along that Mr Dixon came from Jarrow, but had decided to proceed on the assumption that he came from Swansea.

This sort of thing happens all the time in the plays of Mr Harold Pinter. A similar situation arises in *Brideshead Revisited* when Charles Ryder's father, throughout dinner, treats Charles' friend as an American even though he is perfectly well aware that the friend is as English as Charles or himself. For an unexpected element of whimsy was entering into Mrs Thatcher yesterday.

A Liberal, Mr Malcolm Bruce, protested that the Government Chief Whip and other Government whips had gone into a division lobby in the previous night to haul out Tory MPs who were in danger of dividing the wrong way in a complicated plot to vote a Social Democrat off some new select committee on defence.

"Whatever the Chief Whip *did I am absolutely sure it was absolutely right*", she replied, with a surprising lightness of touch and a smile.

Whereupon, Dr David Owen embarked on an immense intervention which took up several minutes of question time. Mr Dennis Skinner, the Labour Member for Bolsover, heckled him.

"There is a disease for which there is no known cure", Dr Owen observed, "and that is what the hon member for Bolsover suffers from: verbal diarrhoea".

Dr Owen went on. He accused Mrs Thatcher of grave abuse, and of making a joke.

"I know we are getting close to Christmas", observed the Speaker, in connexion with nothing in particular, except Christmas Mrs Thatcher denied everything. Good temper was not restored until the House got onto the subject of glue sniffing. Dr Owen walked out. Mr Skinner left in search of a second opinion.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Music

Piano recital by Richard Simm, St. David's Hall, Cardiff, 1.10

Christmas concert by the Choir of Bangor Cathedral, Great Hall, Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, Gwynedd, 7.30.

Handel's *Messiah*, by City of Birmingham Choir, Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.

Halle Orchestra Concert, Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham, 7.30.

Carol Services

County Council Christmas Service, St. Ann's Church, Manchester, 11.

Festival of Carols, by Morriston Tabernacle Choir, with audience participation, St. David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

General

The Tyneside Cinema celebrates 20 years of *Dr Who*; the Brain of Morbiu: Doctor Tom Baker, the Tyneside Cinema, 10/12 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, 6.30.

Exhibitions in progress

The Art of Craft: an exhibition of craftwork at Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square, Newport, Gwent; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 4, closed Sun (ends Feb 4).

The Nude – Approaches Through Drawing, Herbert Art Gallery, Jordan Well, Coventry; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 22).

Contrasting approach to landscape in watercolour and oil by Fylde Artists Dale Berry and William Smedley, Lancaster City Museum, Market Square, Lancaster; Mon to Fri, 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Dec 23).

Fishing Smacks, a Kent County Museum Service travelling exhibition, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Tunbridge Well; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 5, closed Sun (ends Dec 31). Paintings by Peter Sutton, Paintings by David Wiseman; City Museum and Art Gallery, Priestgate, Peterborough; Tues to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun and Mon, (ends Jan 7).

French prints and drawing, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow: Mon to Sat 10 to 5 Sun to 5, (ends Jan 8).

Recent landscapes by Gerald Gadd; Geoffrey Huband, Maritime, Frances Gripwell and Moira Williams, Flora and fauna, at Gallery 45, 45/46 Bridge Street, Hereford: Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Dec 24).

Holiday openings

The London Tourist Board have listed the following open on Boxing Day:

The Barbican Art Gallery, Chessington Zoo, the Historic Ship Collection (St. Katherine Dock), Kenwood House, Kew Gardens, London Dungeon, London Brass Rubbing Centre (St. James's Church), Madame Tussaud's*, London Planetarium*, Light Fantastic Gallery*, London Zoo, Marble Hill House, Royal Academy of Arts, Ranger's House, and Windsor Safari Park*.

*indicates open also on Christmas Eve as are:

Heritage Motor Museum (Syon Park), London Transport Museum, London Butterfly House, the Photographers Gallery, Pollock's Toy Museum.

The board's information services operate as follows: on Christmas Eve at Victoria, Heathrow and Harrods; on Boxing Day at Victoria, Heathrow and on the Telephone Information Service 01-730 3488. "What's On" recorded service operates 24 hours a day on 01-246 8041.

Closures:

The following museums will close as indicated over the holiday (all dates are inclusive):

Dec 23-28, Jan 1-2: Barbican

Dec 23-26, Jan 1: British Library, British Museum, Natural History Museum, Geological Museum, Hayward Gallery, Imperial War Museum, National Army Museum, National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, RAF Museum, Science Museum, Serpentine Gallery, Tate Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum.

Dec 23-27, Jan 1: National Maritime Museum.

Dec 24-26, Jan 1: Geffrye Museum.

Dec 24-27, Jan 1-2: Commonwealth Institute, Museum of London.

Dec 24-27, open noon Dec 28: Institute of Contemporary Arts.

Dec 24 & 26: Royal Academy.

Dec 25-26: Crafts Council (information closed Jan 1, bookshop open).

Dec 25-27, Dec 31, Jan 2: National Galleries of Scotland.

The Whitechapel Art Gallery will be closed over the whole period for renovation.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): House Buyers Bill, second reading.

Lords (11): Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) (No 2) Bill and Disabled Persons Bill, second readings.

Food prices

The all-important decision on what meat to have for Christmas is not made any easier for shoppers by the very fact that there is such a wide choice. If the choice is goose or game, is it to be fresh or frozen? It is important to order fresh birds in good time so as to ensure the correct weight for Christmas catering. In addition to the oven-ready turkeys Dewhurst have a wide selection of fresh birds from small hens weighing 10lb to 12lb at £1.10 to £1.20 a lb. to large stag birds weighing 20lb to 30lb at 78-88p a lb. They also have oven-ready geese from £1.45 a lb and some of their shops will supply fresh birds. There are some increases in beef prices with topside and silverside ranging from £1.94 to £2.30 a lb. Forerib of beef on the bone at Tesco is £1.52 a lb. Lamb prices are quite high with whole leg from £1.29 to £1.52 a lb and whole shoulder from 76p to £1.03 a lb.

All root vegetables remain good buys, particularly carrots. Brussel sprouts, smaller that normal, range from 24p to 34p a lb. Red cabbage is 17p to 30p a lb and is good with pork or game. All Citrus fruits are good value particularly new season Spanish Navalina oranges at 8 to 20p each.

Anniversaries

Births: Catherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII, Alcala de Henares, Spain, 1485; Jane Austen, Steventon, Hampshire, 1775; Zoltán Kodály, Kecskemét, Hungary, 1882; Sir Noel Coward, Teddington, Middlesex, 1899. Deaths: Richard Bright, physician, London, 1858; Camille Saint-Saëns, Algiers, 1921.

The papers

The New York Times says that if the United States runs Grenada's security system and acts as a political cop with limited accountability indefinitely, "that's a recipe for trouble". It states: "The objective now should be to hand over security powers as soon as possible to Grenadians and what tutors they may need from a 390-member, six-nation Caribbean contingent being trained by American military policemen. As long as Americans remain in Grenada, they need to be reminded of the careless disregard for fundamental rights shown in the early days of the occupation. Of 1,200 persons initially detained, 48 are still being held without charges or prospect of trial. Two of the overthrown leaders, Hudson Austin and Bernard Coard, were manacled and blindfolded, contrary to accepted practices in treating prisoners of war. Worse, posters depicting their humiliation were plastered everywhere by a Psychological Operations Unit of the US Army, in dismal emulation of the Iranians, who blindfolded and paraded American diplomats in Teheran." In this vacuum, American MPs have been questioning Grenadians and foreigners about political beliefs, conducting warrantless searches, detaining suspected troublemakers and warning others about anti-government activities. "Are these the lessons they came to give?" the paper asks.

Roads

Midlands: A1: Contraflow southbound north of Normans Cross, Cambridgeshire. A6: Traffic signals at Belper, Derbyshire. A435: Contraflow on Birmingham – Redditch Road at Portway.

North: A62: Restrictions in Oldham Road, Greater Manchester. A62: Improvement work to Thurlstone River Bridge, South Yorkshire; single lane traffic controlled by traffic signs. A5: West Yorkshire: junction improvements and resurfacing work will cause delays.

Scotland: A4: Roadworks south of Doune with single-lane traffic controlled by stop/go boards. A90: Lane closures on southbound carriageway between Forth Road Bridge and junction 1 of the M90.

Information supplied by AA.

Top films

Top box office films in London:
1 (–) Trading Places
2 (1) The Jungle Book/Mickey's Christmas Carol
3 (2) Rear Window
4 (3) La Traviata
5 (5) Octopussy
6 (–) Ziggy Stardust and T[illegible]ers from Mars
7 (4) Videodrome
8 (6) Educating Rita
9 (8) Bertrayal
10 (7) Zelig

Top five in the provinces:
1 An Officer and a Gentleman/American Gigolo
2 Cujo
3 Tootsie/Kramer vs Kamer
4 Videodrome
5 War Games

Compiled by *Screen International*

Top video rentals

1 Raiders of the Lost Ark (CIC)
2 48 Hours (CIC)
3 Porkys (CBS/FOX)
4 Who Dares Wins (Rank)
5 The Entity (CBS/Fox)
6 The Hunger (MGM/UA)
7 First Blood (MGM/UA)
8 Local Hero (Thorn EMI)
9 The Lords of Discipline (CIC)
10 Timerider (Thorn EMI)

Supplied by *Video Business*

The pound

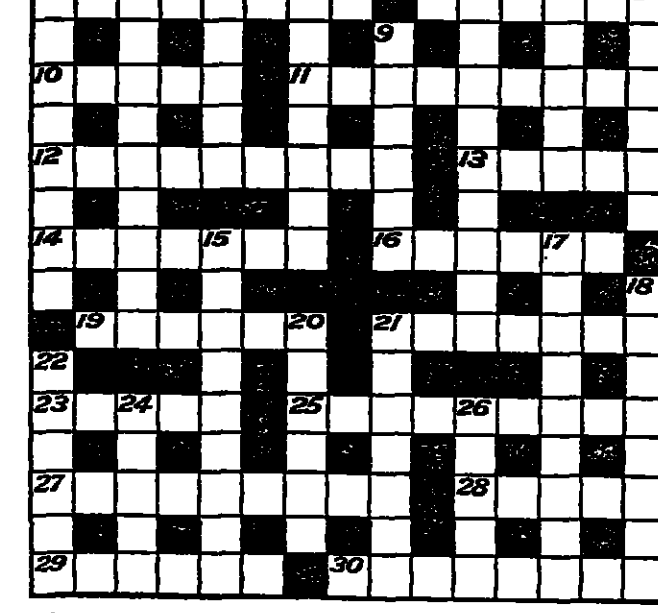
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.66	1.56
Austria Sch	28.80	27.20
Belgium Fr	83.75	79.75
Canada $	1.83	1.76
Denmark Kr	14.72	14.02
Finland Mkk	8.68	8.28
France Fr	12.30	11.80
Germany DM	4.05	3.86
Greece Dr	161.00	151.00
Hongkong $	11.30	10.70
Ireland Pt	1.30	1.25
Italy Lira	2445.00	2335.00
Japan Yen	349.00	331.00
Netherlands Gld	4.57	4.34
Norway Kr	11.50	10.90
Portugal Esc	195.00	185.00
South Africa Rd	1.82	1.69
Spain Pta	231.00	221.00
Sweden Kr	11.97	11.37
Switzerland Fr	3.26	3.09
USA $	1.46	1.41
Yugoslavia Dnr	216.00	206.00

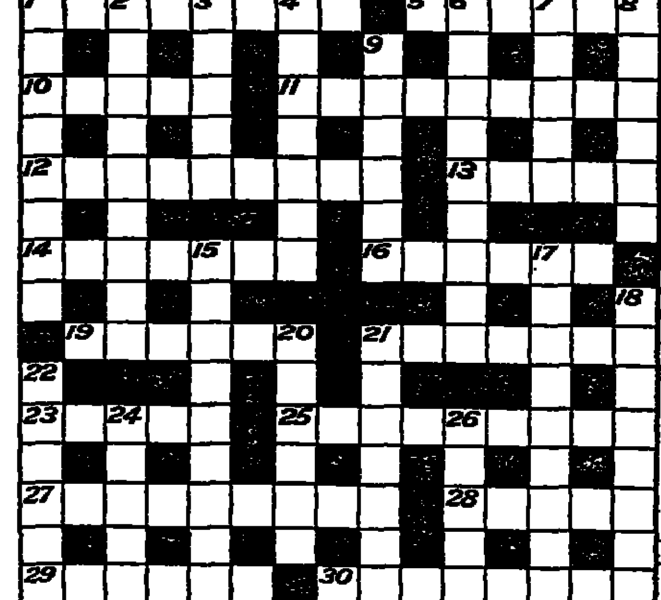
Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 340.7.

London: The *FT* Index closed up 1.7 at 752.8.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,311





ACROSS

1 No obstacles in this course that Alfred's about to follow (4-4).
5 Eight days a month on the road (6).
10 Last of the forty about to crack up (5).
11 Careless braves, not watchful (9).
12 Fluid's warm and red (9).
13 A deer's back leg, in part (5).
14 One very rich sucrose mixture (7).
16 Wait around, the French are not poisonous (6).
19 Numberless dairymen include it in their returns (6).
21 Go back, right back, Onegin (7).
23 Put out powdered tobacco (5).
25 Lying version fools Head (9).
27 Begin to speak after swallowing one drink (9).
28 African master or bachelor of arts, faint-hearted (5).
29 Go outside to dine, by agreement (6).
30 Disclosed Elizabeth was radiant (8).

DOWN

1 Pass the ball to a defender, getting a whistle (8).
2 Study of man loses what rope it has for collective work (9).
3 Controlled with lines (5).
4 Man in fool's raiment (7).
6 Blush after motor race (9).
7 A shortage, unfortunately (5).
8 Tie up the lady moreover (6).
9 Fly up East Street twice (6).
15 Scrooge fell over a stone (9).
17 Rely on a GI to turn into a soldier (9).
18 He would come down without a cape (8).
20 Pay to trim the edges? (6).
21 Ease up always about 25 (7).
22 Companion from a different sector (6).
24 Join central part of up train (5).
26 Such days occur in several months (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,310

ASCOT BRAKESHOE
B O H E N T E V
SOMNOLENT HORSE
E E R R A I E N
NOTION IGNORANT
T U S O P F
ENGAGEMENT STAR
E R H A I S E E
SHAW ILLSTARRED
N L L T G H
MIDNIGHT SIESTA
I D E O E N A N
GOURD UNABASHED
H K E R Y D I E
THEORISTS EMBED

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

Weather forecast

Pressure will be low in the SW with troughs of low pressure crossing many parts.

6am to midnight

London SE, E, NE England, East Anglia: Rain soon clearing, some clear intervals, but further rain in places tomorrow, wind S backing SE, moderate increasing fresh, locally strong; max temp 7 to 8C (45 to 46F).

Central S, SW, NW, central N England, E, W Midlands, Channel Islands, S, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals, becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain; winds SE to E, Fresh increasing strong, locally gale; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

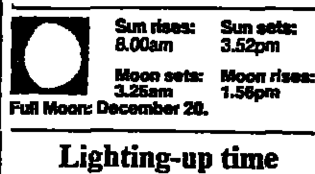
Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth: Sunny periods, becoming cloudy overnight, rain tomorrow; winds S backing E moderate, increasing fresh to strong; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

Argyll, NW Scotland: Showers or longer outbreaks of rain, winds S backing E, Moderate increasing fresh to strong; max temp 8 to 9C (46 to 48F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Showers, heavy at first, some clear intervals, winds SW backing SE, moderate increasing fresh to strong; max temp 7C (45F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Unsettled and windy at times; near normal temperatures.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea; Straits of Dover: Wind SE strong or gale; sea very rough. English Channel (E): Wind SE gale or severe gale; sea very rough. St George's Channel: Wind backing strong or gale. Sea rough. Irish Sea: Wind SE moderate backing E fresh or strong; sea slight becoming rough.



Sun rises: 8.00am Sun sets: 3.52pm

Moon sets: 3.25am Moon rises: 1.56pm

Full Moon: December 20.

Lighting-up time

London 4.22 pm to 7.31 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.40 am
Edinburgh 4.06 pm to 8.09 am
Manchester 4.19 pm to 7.50 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.46 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; dr, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	s	6	43	Guernsey	s	9	48
Birmingham	c	6	43	Inverness	s	2	36
Blackpool	f	6	43	Jersey	s	10	50
Bristol	s	7	45	London	r	8	48
Cardiff	s	7	45	Manchester	c	6	43
Edinburgh	f	4	39	Newcastle	c	4	39
Glasgow	f	6	43	Ronaldsway	c	7	45

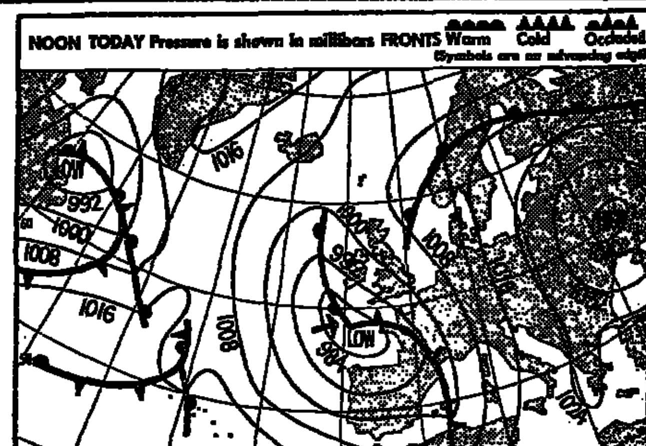
London

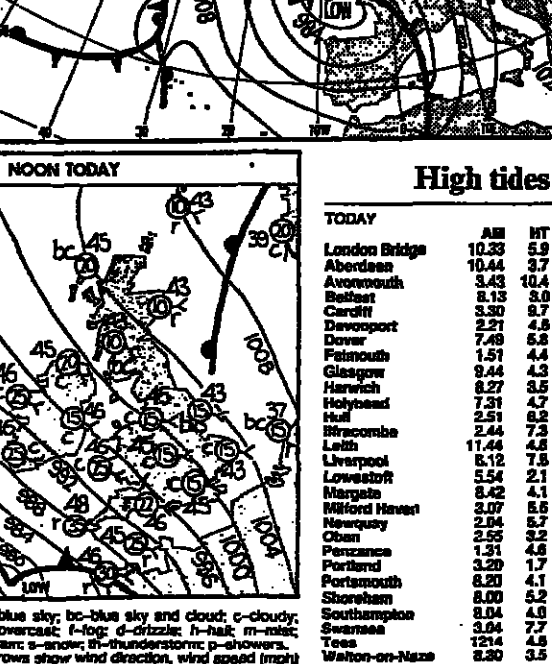
Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 6 pm, 84 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.01in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.3hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 999.7 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey 12C (54F); lowest day max: Aviemore 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Exeter 1.02in; highest sunshine: Guernsey & Cardiff 6.1hr.

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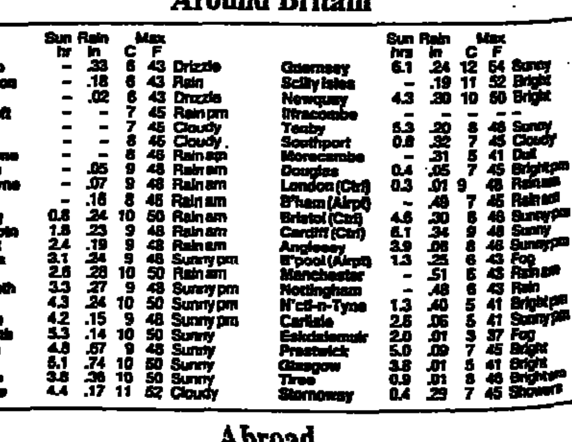
b-blue sky; bc-blue sky and cloud; c-cloudy; o-overcast; f-fog; d-drizzle; h-hail; m-mist; r-rain; s-snow; th-thunderstorm; p-showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled. temperatures fahrenheit.

High tides

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aberdeen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avonmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belfast	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cardiff	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Devonport	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dover	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Falmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Glasgow	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harwich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Holyhead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hull	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ilfracombe	2.44	7.3	3.10	7.7
Leith	11.44	4.6	11.59	4.9
Liverpool	8.12	7.8	8.28	8.2
Lowestoft	5.54	2.1	7.09	2.2
Margate	8.42	4.1	9.27	4.3
Milford Haven	3.07	5.5	3.27	5.9
Newquay	2.04	5.7	2.23	5.9
Oban	2.55	3.2	3.16	3.5
Penzance	1.31	4.6	1.46	4.8
Portland	3.20	1.7	3.38	1.7
Portsmouth	8.20	4.1	8.44	4.1
Shoreham	8.00	5.2	8.26	5.2
Southampton	8.04	4.0	8.23	3.9
Swansea	3.04	7.7	3.28	8.1
Tees	1214	4.5	1.06	4.7
Walton-on-Naze	8.30	3.5	9.10	3.7

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain



	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	–	.33	6	43	Drizzle	Guernsey	6.1	.24	12	54	Sunny
Bridlington	–	.18	6	43	Rain	Scilly Isles	–	.19	11	52	Bright
Cromer	–	.02	6	43	Drizzle	Newquay	4.3	.30	10	50	Bright
Lowestoft	–	–	7	45	Rain pm	Ilfracombe	–	–	–	–	
Clacton	–	–	7	45	Cloudy	Tenby	6.3	.20	8	46	Sunny
Margate	–	–	8	46	Cloudy	Southport	0.8	.32	7	45	Cloudy
Folkestone	–	–	8	46	Rain am	Morecambe	–	.31	5	41	Dull
Hastings	–	.05	9	48	Rain am	Douglas	0.4	.05	7	45	Bright pm
Eastbourne	–	.07	9	48	Rain am	London (Ctrl)	0.3	.01	9	48	Rain am
Brighton	–	.16	8	46	Rain am	B'ham (Airpt)	–	.49	7	45	Rain am
Worthing	0.8	.24	10	50	Rain am	Bristol (Ctrl)	4.6	.30	8	46	Sunny pm
Littlehmptn	1.8	.23	9	48	Rain am	Cardiff (Ctrl)	6.1	.34	9	48	Sunny
Bognor R	2.4	.19	9	48	Rain am	Anglesey	3.9	.08	8	46	Sunny pm
Southsea	3.1	.24	9	48	Sunny pm	B'pool (Airpt)	1.3	.25	6	43	Fog
Shanklin	2.6	.28	10	50	Rain am	Manchester	–	.51	6	43	Rain am
Bournemth	3.3	.27	9	48	Sunny pm	Nottingham	–	.48	6	43	Rain
Poole	4.3	.24	10	50	Sunny pm	N'cstl-n-Tyne	1.3	.40	5	41	Bright pm
Swanage	4.2	.15	9	48	Sunny pm	Carlisle	2.6	.06	5	41	Sunny pm
Weymouth	5.3	.14	10	50	Sunny	Eskdalemuir	2.0	.01	3	37	Fog
Exmouth	4.8	.67	9	48	Sunny	Prestwick	5.0	.09	7	45	Bright
Torquay	6.1	.74	10	50	Sunny	Glasgow	3.8	.01	5	41	Bright
Falmouth	3.6	.36	10	50	Sunny	Tiree	0.9	.01	8	46	Bright am
Penzance	4.4	.17	11	52	Cloudy	Stornoway	0.4	.29	7	45	Showers

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; th, thunder.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	15	59	Copnhgn	s	1	34	Majorca	f	15	59	Rio de Jan*	c	[illegible]	[illegible]
Akrotiri	f	17	63	Corfu	f	15	54	Malaga	f	14	57	Rome	c	8	46
Alexandria	th	19	66	Dallas*	c	8	45	Malta	c	15	59	Salzburg	s	-5	23
Algiers	s	16	61	Dublin	s	7	45	Melbourne				Sao Paulo*			
Amsterdam	s	3	37	Dubrovnik	c	5	41	Mexico C*				S F'cisco*	r	12	54
Athens	f	10	50	Faro	r	15	59	Miami*	s	23	73	Santiago*	s	22	72
Bahrain	f	22	72	Florence	s	5	41	Milan	fg	-2	28	Seoul	s	2	36
Barbados*				Frankfurt	s	-2	28	Montreal*	c	1	34	Singapore			
Barcelona	r	6	43	Funchal	f	17	63	Moscow	c	-5	23	Stockholm	s	-1	30
Beirut				Geneva	c	0	32	Munich	s	-7	19	Strasbg	sn	-3	27
Belgrade	c	-1	30	Gibraltar	r	15	59	Nairobi	f	26	79	Sydney	f	22	72
Berlin	s	-3	27	Helsinki	c	2	36	Naples	s	12	54	Tangier	c	15	59
Bermuda*	f	24	75	Hongkong				New Delhi	s	21	70	Tel Aviv	f	22	72
Biarritz	s	12	54	Innsbruck	s	1	34	New York*	fg	12	54	Tenerife	c	19	66
Boulogne	c	5	41	Istanbul	f	8	46	Nice	c	8	46	Tokyo	s	10	50
Bordeaux	f	10	50	Jiddah	s	31	88	Oslo	c	3	37	Toronto*	c	2	36
Brussels	s	5	41	Jo'burg	s	25	70	Ottawa				Tunis	s	15	59
Budapest	s	-4	25	Karachi	s	23	73	Paris	c	8	46	Valencia	s	9	48
Buen Aires*				Las Palmas	s	21	70	Peking	s	5	41	Vancouver*	f	8	46
Cairo	f	21	70	Lisbon	f	13	55	Perth	s	33	91	Venice	s	1	34
Cape Tn	s	25	77	Locarno	s	1	34	Prague	s	-4	25	Vienna	s	-3	27
C'blanca	c	16	61	L Angeles*	f	15	59	Reykjavik	c	1	34	Warsaw	s	-6	21
Chicago*				Luxembg	s	0	32	Rhodes	r	14	57	Washgton*			
Cologne	s	2	36	Madrid	c	6	43	Riyadh	s	19	66	Zurich	c	-4	25

* denotes Wednesday's figures are latest available

هكذا من الأصل